

ROYAL GARDENS, KEW.

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BULLETIN

OF

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

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No. 60.]

DECEMBER.

[1891.

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CCXXII.—HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF KEW TO 1841.

On the 1st of April 1841 Sir William Hooker, who had previously been Regius Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow, commenced his duties as Director of Kew. The year 1891 therefore marks the jubilee of the establishment as a national institution.

It appeared to me that the occasion might appropriately be marked by giving some account in the pages of the *Kew Bulletin* of the origin and development of the Royal Gardens as a place of botanical study. The task is not an easy one, as scarcely any authentic records exist of the period prior to 1840, when the Gardens were a purely private possession of the Crown. I have therefore had to fall back on local tradition, on local histories, the statements in which are often confusing and inaccurate, and on such scattered notices as could be gathered from contemporary literature.

The present account only goes as far as 1841. The history of the last half century will be given in another number.

I am quite aware that what I have written is open to the criticism that it might have been stated with greater brevity. But I have

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1891.

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thought it best to sift the available material, and to print *verbatim* the statements which seem to be fairly accurate. For official purposes the need has often been felt of such a historical account as I have attempted to compile. And it is from this point of view extremely convenient to give the exact authority on which any particular statement rests.

In order to save space in the citation of references I add a list of the books from which the information has been drawn.

The Rarities of Richmond: being Exact Description of the Royal Hermitage and Merlin's Cave. Second ed. 1736.

A Morning's Walk from London to Kew. By Sir Richard Phillips. 1817.

Richmond and its Vicinity. By John Evans, LL.D. Second ed. 1825.

Kew and its Gardens. By Frederick Scheer, Esq. 1840.

The History of Kew. By Edward Simpson. [Privately printed, 1849.]

Wanderings through the Conservatories at Kew. [By Philip Henry Gosse, 1856.]

Records of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. [By John Smith. Privately printed, 1880.]

Kew: Past and Present. By Q.C. and Edward Walford, M.A. [Privately printed, 1884. Pages 389-424 are reprinted from Walford's "Greater London."]

The History of the Kew Observatory. By Robert Henry Scott, M.A., F.R.S., Secretary to the Meteorological Council. Proc. R.S. Lond., vol. xxxix. (1885), pp. 37-46.

A Sketch of the Life and Reminiscences of John Rogers. 1889.

W. T. THISSELTON-DYER.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

Although not one of the oldest institutions, the early history of Kew commences with a myth. In Flückiger and Hanbury's *Pharmacographia* (2nd ed., 1879, p. 767) "the foundation of the Kew Gardens" is attributed to William Turner, who died in 1568. This idea seems to have had its origin in a passage in Pulteney's "Historical and Biographical Sketches of the Progress of Botany in England" (1790, vol. i., p. 63), where the author, in his account of Turner, remarks:—"He also speaks of his garden at Kew."

The existence of anything like a botanic garden at Kew in the sixteenth century is certainly a curious coincidence, and the national establishment which now exists could not have had a worthier founder than "the Father of English Botany." But unless contiguity to the neighbouring domain of Sion (where, according to Pulteney (i., 55) Turner "seems to have had the direction" of the garden of the Duke of Somerset) had some faint influence on the formation of botanical collections at Kew, Turner has no real place in its history. Even the site of his garden at Kew is unknown.

The mention of so remarkable a man in connexion with Kew will justify, however, a few words as to his history. He was born at Morpeth in Northumberland, and was educated at the expense of Lord Wentworth at Cambridge, a university which has produced a succession of distinguished English botanists. At the University he was associated



with Latimer and Ridley, and throughout his life adhered unflinchingly to the principles of the Reformation. He became a Fellow of Pembroke College in 1530. In 1548 he published "*The Names of Herbes*." At this time he was physician to the Duke of Somerset, Lord Protector, and the preface is dated from Sion House, then the residence of the latter, to whom the book is dedicated. It contains many localities of native plants, chiefly about Sion. Turner seems, however, to have lived also at Kew, for Mr. Daydon Jackson, in his reprint of Turner's first publication, "*Libellus de re Herbaria Novus*" (1538), prints a letter concluding with "farewell from Kew," which appears to have been written in 1549.

Turner's Herbal (first part, 1551; second part, 1562; reprint with third part, 1568) was the real starting point of scientific botany in England. It contains a reference to Kew, which is no doubt the authority for Pulteney's statement.

"Cicer is muche in Italy and Germany. I have seen them in the gardine of the barbican in London, and I haue it in my garden at Kew. Cicer may be named in English ciche or ciche pease, after the Frenche tonge."

The complete edition of the Herbal is dedicated to Queen Elizabeth. He recalls that he had conversed with her in Latin at Sion (before she had ascended the throne), and assures her that he "neuer spake with any noble or gentle woman that spake so wel and so much congrue fyne a pure Latin."

In 1550 Turner was made Dean of Wells, though not ordained priest till 1552. He was also a member of the House of Commons. He died 1568.

#### RICHMOND GARDENS.

Kew, as it exists to-day, was formed by the fusion of two distinct properties or domains, both Royal, but with entirely different histories. They corresponded roughly to the west and east halves of the present gardens. The western half was known as Richmond Gardens. The eastern half corresponds in great part to the grounds of Kew House, and to this the name of Kew Gardens was originally confined. The two properties were separated by Love Lane, the ancient bridle road between Richmond and Brentford ferry.

Evans (pp. 18-24) says that the Old Palace at Richmond was originally "the Manor House at Sheen." It was made a royal palace by Edward I. Henry VII. rebuilt it after a fire, and gave it the name of Richmond. He died there April 29, 1507; as did Queen Elizabeth, March 24, 1603. Charles II., by order of Parliament, was sent to be educated at Richmond. In 1650 it was sold for 10,000*l*. "In this old Palace, according to Bishop Burnet, the son of James the Second, commonly known by the name of the Pretender, was nursed." Nothing now remains of it but the old Gateway on the Green.

The Old Park (in contradistinction to the New Park, now known as Richmond Park) lay to the north of the palace. Evans says (pp. 28, 29):—

"Its lodge was once occupied by Cardinal Wolsey in his disgrace. 'The Cardinal,' says Stow, 'having license to repair to Richmond, was there lodged within the lodge of the Great Park, which was a very prettie hoase; there my Lord lay until Lent, with a prettie number of servants!' He afterwards removed to the priory."

In the Kew Museums there is a map by Jean Rocque, dated 1734, and entitled "Plan of the House Gardens, Park, and Hermitage of " their Majesties at Richmond; and of their R.H. the Prince of Wales " and the Princess Royal at Kew."

An inscription on the map gives the following account of how the house and land came into the possession of Queen Caroline, wife of George II.

" His Maj : our late Gracious K : W : III. for y<sup>e</sup> gallant behaviour of y<sup>e</sup> D : of O[rmonde] (against y<sup>e</sup> Enemy) granted this Place to him, on w<sup>ch</sup> he founded and almost finish'd y<sup>e</sup> House &c. but in the 1st of K : G : I. y<sup>e</sup> said D : being attainted it devolv'd to y<sup>e</sup> Crown and by his present Maj : in Parl<sup>t</sup> was confirm'd to his Q : (if she survives as Dowager Q : of Eng :) at whose Expende it is made compleat being augmented with Buildings and sundry large parcels of Ground purchas'd to enlarge y<sup>e</sup> Gardens Park &c. all curiously (and at no small Expende) adorn'd in so exquisite a manner as renders it second to none in y<sup>e</sup> Kingdom.

" It is beautify'd with regular Rows of Trees, Walks, Groves, Arbours, Statues &c. At a distance you view the Park, Fields, River, City, and at a remoter Prospect y<sup>e</sup> Country all around w<sup>ch</sup> renders it one of y<sup>e</sup> most delectable Places in y<sup>e</sup> Land. Near this Place stands Kew Pallace The seat of his Royal Highness y<sup>e</sup> Prince of Wales, a compleat Place very beautifull in its Situation, Gardens &c. all laid out at his Highnesses expence and affords a delightfull Prospect of y<sup>e</sup> River and the opposite Country."

A somewhat different story is given by Scott:—

" Richmond Lodge, which in its turn became the Palace of Richmond, was apparently originally the Lodge of the Palace Park, the old Deer Park" (p. 39).

" Richmond Lodge or House (once occupied by Cardinal Wolsey) . . . had been granted in 1707 by Queen Anne to the Duke of Ormonde, and partly rebuilt by him, in the year 1708-9, on the site of an old building which had likewise borne the name of a lodge for a long period of years. On the impeachment of the Duke in 1715, he hastily left the country and resided at Paris. Ormonde House was apparently unfinished at the time. The Earl of Arran, his brother, who purchased the property, then leased for the term of about ninety years, sold the lease to the Prince of Wales, afterwards George II., of whom, both before and after his succession to the throne, it was a favourite place of residence, and even more particularly so of his Queen (Caroline)" (p. 41).

Queen Caroline is believed to have spent large sums on Richmond Gardens. Simpson (p. 45) quotes Walpole:—"One of the Queen's " delights, was the improvement of her Garden, and the King believed " she paid for all with her own money; nor would he ever look at " her intended plans, saying 'he did not care how she flung away her " own revenue.'" Simpson continues:—"He little suspected the aid " Sir Robert Walpole (then Minister) furnished to her from the " Treasury: when she died she was in debt to the King, to the " amount of 20,000*l*."

Queen Caroline died in 1737 and George II. in 1760. Up to this date Richmond Gardens remained unchanged. The following clear and apparently accurate account of them is given in Chamberlain's "History and Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster" (p. 627). This was published in 1769; but it is practically identical with the account in "London and its Euvirons," published in 1761.

"The present palace, which is delightfully situated, is a plain edifice built by the duke of Ormond, who received a grant of a considerable space of land about Richmond, from King William III. as a reward for his military services; but on the attainder of that duke in the beginning of the reign of King George I., it devolved to the crown, and it was by his late majesty confirmed to queen Caroline, in case she became queen dowager of England.

"The King took great delight here, and made several improvements in the palace, while her Majesty amused herself at her royal dairy house, Merlin's cave, the Hermitage, and the other improvements which she made in the park and gardens of this delightful mansion.



"The gardens are extremely fine, and are formed with an agreeable wildness and pleasing irregularity, that cannot fail to charm all who are in love with nature, and afford a much higher and more lasting satisfaction than can possibly arise from the most extensive decorations of art.

"On entering these rural walks, you are conducted to the dairy, a neat but low brick building, to which there is an ascent by a flight of steps; in the front is a handsome angular pediment. The walls on the inside are covered with stucco, and the house is furnished suitable to a royal dairy, the utensils for the milk being of the most beautiful china.

"Proceeding through a grove of trees you come to the temple, which is situated on a mount. It is a circular dome crowned with a ball, and supported by Tuscan columns, with a circular altar in the middle, and to which there is an ascent by very steep slopes.

"Returning by the dairy, and crossing the gravel walk which leads from the palace to the river, you come to a wood, which you enter by a walk terminated by the queen's pavilion, a neat elegant structure, wherein is seen a beautiful chimney-piece, taken from a design in the addition to Palladis, and a model of a palace intended to be built in this place. In another part of this wood is the duke's summer-house, which has a lofty arched entrance, and the roof rising to a point is terminated by a ball.

"From the wood you come to the summer-house on the terrace, a light small building with very large and lofty windows, to give a better view of the country, and particularly of that noble seat called Sion House. In this edifice are two pictures, representing the taking of Vigo by the duke of Ormond.

"Passing through a labyrinth, you see, near a pond, Merlin's cave, a Gothic building thatched; within which are the following figures in wax, Merlin, an ancient British enchanter; the excellent and learned queen Elizabeth, and a queen of the Amazons; here is also a library consisting of a well chosen collection of the works of modern authors neatly bound in vellum.

"On leaving this edifice, which has an antique and venerable appearance, you come to a large oval of above five hundred feet in diameter, called the Forest oval, and turning from hence you have a view of the Hermitage, a grotesque building, which seems as if it had stood many hundred years, though it was built by order of her late majesty. It has three arched doors, and the middle part which projects forward, is adorned with a kind of ruinous angular pediment; the stones of the whole edifice appear as if rudely laid together, and the venerable look of the whole is improved by the thickness of the solemn grove behind, and the little turret on the top with a bell, to which you may ascend by a winding walk.

"The inside of this building is in the form of an octagon with niches, in which are the busts of the following truly great men, who by their writings were an honour not only to their country, but to human nature. The first on the right hand is the incomparable Sir Isaac Newton, and next to him the justly celebrated Mr. John Locke. The first on the left hand is Mr. Woolaston, the author of the Religion of Nature Displayed; next to him is the reverend and learned Dr. Samuel Clarke, and in a kind of alcove is the truly honourable Mr. Robert Boyle.

"From this seat of contemplation you pass thro' fields clothed with grass; through corn fields, and a wild ground interspersed with broom and furze, which afford excellent shelter for hares and pheasants, of which there are great abundance.

"Leaving this beautiful variety, in which nature appears in all her forms of cultivation and barren wildness, you come to an amphitheatre formed by young elms, and a diagonal wilderness, through which you pass to the forest walk, that extends about half a mile, and then passing through a small wilderness you leave the gardens.

"At the north-east extremity of the garden is another house that belonged to her majesty, and near it the house of his late royal Highness Frederick prince of Wales, which is on the inside adorned with stucco. Opposite this last house is the princess Amelia's, built by a Dutch architect, the outside of which is painted."

The "Forest walk" as shown on Rocque's plan was an avenue of trees which ran from near the present Palace to Richmond Green, a distance of considerably more than a mile. The wilderness was called the "Wilderness near Richmond."

It appears from Walpole, quoted by Johnson (*History of English Gardening*, p. 262), that the Richmond Gardens were laid out by Bridgeman.

"Bridgeman was the next fashionable designer of Gardens . . . . He enlarged his plans, disdained to make every division tally to its opposite, and though



he still adhered much to strait walks with high elipt hedges, they were only his great lines; the rest he diversified by wilderness, and with loose groves of oak, though still within surrounding hedges. . . . As his reformations gained footing, he ventured farther, and in the Royal Garden at Richmond, dared to introduce cultivated fields, and even morsels of a forest appearance."

Bridgeman introduced the sunk fence "as a boundary instead of walls and other opaque partitions."

"Here," says Scott (p. 41), "in the garden appertaining to their lodge, took place the interview between Queen Caroline and Jeannie Deans, after her journey on foot from Edinburgh to plead for the life of her sister Effie, which has been so graphically and so touchingly described by Sir Walter Scott in his 'Heart of Midlothian.'"

There is some reason to think that George III. contemplated at first making the Richmond Gardens a royal residence. In the Kew Museums there is a manuscript plan entitled "Richmond Gardens with the proposed alterations, December 10, 1764." The scheme, which was probably the work of Brown (1715-82), included the whole of the Deer Park. It eliminates all the work of Queen Caroline, and redispeses the ground in the modern landscape fashion.

George III. certainly resided at Richmond or Ormond Lodge, as it was apparently indifferently called, in the early part of his reign.

John Rogers gives some particulars of the local history of this date. He was a gardener 'in the Royal Gardens at Richmond, then under the "Superintendence of Mr. John Haverfield, who was recommended to His "Majesty King George III. by Lord Bute" (p. 21).

Before this he had been—

"to Richmond Lodge, to see the beautiful display of fireworks given by His Majesty King George III. to Christian VII. King of Denmark, in honour of the nuptials [1766] of his sister, the Princess Carolina Matilda with the Danish King . . . . . The fireworks were mostly exhibited upon a large pond, near the Lodge, which was full of gold, silver and other fishes" (p. 19).

A few other facts may be quoted to illustrate a part of the history of Kew, of which so little is known.

"During my stay in the Royal Gardens, I had frequent opportunities of seeing the King, who at this time resided in a domestic manner at Ormond Lodge. He would often walk to where we were at work, and occasionally ask us questions." (p. 26).

"Very near the house was a small flower garden in which the Queen took particular interest. I remember assisting Ramus, the Queen's Page, planting some tulip roots (a flower Her Majesty was particularly fond of) under her immediate direction, but all traces of this garden have long been swept away. After the death of the Queen's mother [1772], his Majesty retired to Kew" (p. 27).

All trace of Queen Caroline's occupation was eventually obliterated. Scott (p. 42) quotes from Crisp's "Richmond" :—

"A few years after the accession of George III., the public, more especially of Richmond and Kew, were surprised to learn that it was His Majesty's intention to pull down the whole of the buildings and convert the estate into a large pasturage for cattle, which intention was duly carried out."

Crisp, however, quoted by Scott (p. 41), says :—

"It was in the year 1770 that the village or hamlet of West Sheen, with the ancient gateway forming the entrance to, or rather part of, the priory, and eighteen houses with large pieces of ground attached, were pulled down, and the entire site converted into park or pasture land, as we now see it."

He continues :—

"Of this famous Richmond Lodge, its magnificent gardens, the statuary, and the numerous and singular buildings with which the Queen of George II. had at such an

extraordinary outlay enriched the place, the remains of the ancient monastery of Sheen, the large and embattled Gothic entrance, and the numerous houses still appertaining to the hamlet—we have now not a vestige left.”

Brown got the credit of the destruction. Evans (p. 30) quotes from Mason's “Heroic Epistle to Sir William Chambers” (1773):—

“Come then, prolific Art, and with thee bring  
The charms that rise from thy exhaustless spring;  
To Richmond come, for see untutor'd *Brown*  
Destroys those wonders that were once thy own.  
Lo! from his melon ground the peasant slave  
Has rudely rush'd and level'd *Merlin's Cave*,  
Knock'd down the waxen wizard, seized his wand,  
Transform'd to lawns what late was fairy land;  
And marr'd with impious hand, each sweet design  
Of *Stephen Duck* and good *QUEEN CAROLINE*!”

The augmentation of the property stated by Rocque must have consisted of land to the north. Richmond Gardens finally extended to the neighbourhood of the Horse Ferry at Brentford, and absorbed all the available land between what was afterwards Kew Gardens (from which they were only separated by Love Lane) and the river.

At the extreme northern apex of the property the Queen, as stated by Chamberlain, had a house which in Rocque's plan is called the “Queen's House at Kew.” It was almost next door to the present Kew Palace, being only separated from its out-buildings by the end of Love Lane. There is a tradition that it belonged to Sir Richard Levett, who also purchased the present palace in 1697.

The dogs on the piers at the present entrance to the palace were stated by the late John Smith to have been placed there by Decimus Burton in 1847, and to have come from the gateway to Levett's house. The Queen's house was pulled down by George III. Its exact history has been a good deal confused with that of the palace which in Rocque's plan is called the “Princess Royal's House.”

#### MERLIN'S CAVE.

Among the buildings destroyed by George III. were two which notwithstanding their trivial character have enjoyed a reputation which a good deal exceeds their intrinsic interest. These were the Hermitage and Merlin's Cave. The latter was a sort of thatched summer-house of wood and plaster with queer conical bee-hive roofs. It is probably the “Keeper's House” of Rocque's map, which was near the river. The name has been transferred on the Ordnance map to a rockery with a small stone house and a sort of underground cellar which existed till recently near the Temperate House in a remote part of the grounds. From a letter of John Smith it appears that this was constructed by the sons of George III. with the help of a bricklayer. Having become overgrown and obsolete, the materials were used in 1882 for the construction of the Rock Garden in the Botanic Garden.

The site of Ormond House is not certainly known, but it was apparently in the northern part of the Old Deer Park near the Queen's Cottage Grounds.

Evans (p. 127) says (1824):—

“Richmond Gardens adjoining the Old Park are now connected with Kew Gardens. In this Park . . . stood a Palace of George the Second, a favourite spot with his Queen Caroline of literary celebrity. But this ancient structure having been demolished, another was begun, even to the turning of the arches, but never completed. The Garden with Merlin's Cave and other decorations being vanished, an observatory, devoted to science, raises its dome and dignifies the scenery.”



## OBSERVATORY.

The observatory was built for George III. in 1769 by Sir William Chambers for the purpose of observing the transit of Venus which occurred in that year. The old observatory in Kew House had fallen into disuse.

The Rev. Stephen Demaimbray succeeded his father Dr. Demaimbray in 1782 as superintendent of the observatory. He retired on a pension in 1840, when the observatory was abandoned by the Royal family. Latterly he was assisted by his nephew Professor Rigaud, who took charge of the observatory during the Oxford vacations.

Evans (p. xi) describes in 1824 the changes which had taken place in the Deer Park, as pointed out to him by Rigaud :—

" Strolling one day into Richmond Gardens to ascertain where the old favourite Palace of George the Second and of Queen Caroline with its far-famed adjacent Merlin's Cave stood, the author had the good fortune to meet there S. P. Rigaud, Esq., of the Royal Observatory, Savilian Professor of Geometry, Oxford, and distinguished for his mathematical attainments . . . . He very politely pointed out to him, though a stranger, the spot where these edifices were once to be found. Two hawthorn bushes, now blown down by the wind, till lately indicated where this residence of kings extended its broad foundations, and reared its turrets to the sky. [As a matter of fact it was a very plain house, destitute of turrets.] Even its ruins have disappeared. It is swept into oblivion . . . . Richmond Gardens existed, and were in the zenith of their popularity before Kew Gardens emerged into distinction. But it has been stripped of its horticultural beauties, which fringed the banks of the Thames, here rolling along its waters with a placid equability. The shady rows of chestnut trees, which constituted an entrance to the Palace from the Green, have also vanished; cut down it is said with a number of fine elms; the latter were used in constructing the common sewers of the metropolis of Scotland! Indeed this truly celebrated spot is reduced to an humble, but spacious plot of meadow ground, stretching from near the Pagoda, at the southern extremity of the Kew Gardens, to the village of Richmond."

The "Terrace" spoken of by Chamberlain can still be traced, though it is now only a turfed avenue by the river.

Evans (p. 130) on the authority of "a respectable friend, of Brentford," says :—

"A terrace near the river was frequented, especially on Sunday evening, with a concourse of nobility and gentry! Stars and ribbons and garters glistened on the eye in uninterrupted succession. No music exhilarated the company, but the translucent stream of old father Thames glided by with an equable and enviable placidity."

The actual topographical history of the Richmond Gardens, as they now form part of the Pleasure Grounds, is extremely difficult to trace. A path starting from the side of Kew House and running across the Palace lawn takes a further course through the Pleasure Grounds, and ends at the head of the Hollow Walk. It is known traditionally as the Princess's Walk. Another walk starting from the same point at the head of the Hollow Walk skirts the Azalea Garden. This is called the Stafford Walk. The local tradition is that these three walks, the Princess's, Stafford, and Hollow Walk, were made in the reign of George III. by the Staffordshire Militia when quartered at Kew, and at the expense of the Dowager Princess of Wales. The Hollow Walk, which is one of the prettiest features in the grounds, is shown on a "Plan of the Royal Manor of Richmond" made by Thomas Richardson for Peter Burrell, Esq., His Majesty's Surveyor-General in 1771. A copy of this has been lent to the Kew Museums by Her Majesty the Queen. The Hollow Walk (and the others) must therefore have been



made between 1760 and 1771. They were probably designed by Brown.

#### LOVE LANE.

In 1765 an Act of Parliament was passed giving George III. power to shut up Love Lane, which separated Kew and Richmond Gardens:—

“It shall and may be lawful to and for His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, at His and their Costs and Charges to cause the said Road by the River Side from the late Horse Ferry at Kew, to West Sheene Lane near Richmond Green, to be shut up and discontinued.”

The King undertook to keep the road from Kew Bridge to Richmond in repair as an equivalent. This Act seems to have been ineffective, for in 1785 a further Act was passed empowering the parish of Richmond to elect a vestry. Each vestryman was to take an oath pledging him to perform his duties under the Act, the title of which is recited in the oath, concluding with:—“and also to enable His Majesty to shut up a Lane within the said Parish, called Love Lane.” This would at any rate keep the King’s wish before the mind of every successive vestryman. According to Scheer, however (p. 17), it was not finally accomplished till 1802.

#### OLD DEER PARK.

In Rocque’s map of 1734 this corresponds to only about the western half of the area of the present Park. “It was used as a kind of hospital-paddock for aged deer.” The eastern half was partly occupied by the Kitchen Gardens of Ormond House, and the west was divided up into square fields in arable cultivation. This was also the condition of part of the Richmond Gardens property, now included in the Royal Gardens.

In the early part of the present century George III. enlarged the Deer Park by adding to the east (*i.e.*, north of Kew Gardens proper) some land obtained by exchange from W. Selwyn, Esq., Q.C.

Evans (1825) gives a map in which he marks the Deer Park as “Richmond Old Park.” In 1851, 13 acres were taken from the Deer Park, and added to the Queen’s Cottage Grounds; for this a rent of 45*l.* 10*s.* is paid to the Woods and Forests.

The Deer Park as it exists is therefore the creation of George III.

The Pleasure Grounds at Kew were placed under Sir W. Hooker by the Woods and Forests, July 9, 1845. Apparently the Old Deer Park was included in his charge. In his report for 1845 he states:—

“This ground having been let for grazing purposes to a tenant from year to year, little comparatively requires to be done to it, save for the general protection of the property. It is an extensive piece of pasture land, comprising 374 acres, with many noble trees and belts of wood.

“Some parts of the belts have been much injured and denuded by gales and other casualties; these blanks have been filled up to the number of 1,000, with birches and horse-chestnut trees planted this winter, and guarded by a strong rail fence from cattle.”

In 1846 the wall between the Pleasure Grounds and the Deer Park was removed.

#### KEW HOUSE.

Kew House (or the White House) was a substantial private house of no great architectural pretensions, which stood in the private grounds of the present palace, and to the south of it. In the middle of the

seventeenth century it belonged to Richard Bennett, Esquire, son of Sir Thomas Bennett, Lord Mayor of London, 1603.

#### LORD CAPEL.

His daughter and heiress married Sir Henry afterwards Lord Capel of Tewkesbury (a brother of Lord Essex), who died Lord Deputy of Ireland in 1696. Lord Capel was much attached to the culture of plants, and his collections may fairly be regarded as the actual starting point in the botanical history of Kew. Stephen Switzer, writing in 1718 (*Ichnographia Rustica*, vol. i., p. 58) singles him out as one of the chief horticulturists of the time of Charles II.

"The Right Honourable the Earl of Essex and the Lord Capel amongst the Nobles; and John Evelyn, Esq., and Sir William Temple amongst the Gentlemen; Cowley amongst the Poets, and Rose amongst the Gard'ners, made up a great part of the Virtuosos of that Reign."

He continues (p. 61):—

"The Plantations of the Right Honourable the Lord Capel are still to be seen at Kew, over against Brentford. The greatest advance made by him herein was the bringing over several sorts of Fruit from France; and this noble lord we may suppose to be one that had for many years a correspondence with Monsieur de la Quintinye . . . . The Earliness with which this lord appeared in Gard'ning, merits a very great place in this History, and a better Pen than mine to draw it."

John Evelyn in his "Diary" under date of August 30, 1678, writes:—

"Hence I went to my worthy friend Sir Henry Capel (at Kew), brother to the Earle of Essex; it is an old timber house, but his garden has the choicest fruit of any plantation in England, as he is the most industrious and understanding in it."

The house inhabited by the Prince of Wales must have been a different structure from that which Evelyn saw. From contemporary prints it was a plain building in the Georgian style probably stuccoed and painted.

Again, under date of March 24, 1688, Evelyn writes:—

"From thence we went to Kew to visit Sir Henry Capel's, whose orangery and myrtetum are most beautiful, and perfectly well kept. He was contriving very high palisades of reeds, to shade his oranges during the summer, and painting those reeds in oil."

J. Gibson wrote—

"A short Account of several Gardens near London, with remarks on some particulars wherein they excel, or are deficient, upon a view of them in December 1691."

This was read to the Society of Antiquaries, July 3, 1794, and is published in vol. xii. of the *Archæologia*.

He gives the following account of the garden at Kew House:—

"Sir Henry Capell's garden at Kew has as curious greens, and is as well kept as any about London. His two lentiscus trees (for which he paid forty pounds to Verspritt) are said to be the best in England, not only of their kind, but of greens. He has four white striped hollies, about four feet above their cases, kept round and regular, which cost him five pounds a tree this last year, and six laurustinuses he has, with large round equal heads, which are very flowery and make a fine show. His orange trees and other choice greens stand out in summer in two walks about fourteen feet wide, enclosed with a timber frame about seven feet high, and set with silver firs hedge-wise, which are as high as the frame, and this to secure them from wind and tempest, and sometimes from the scorching sun. His terrace



walk, bare in the middle, and grass on either side, with a hedge of rue on one side next a low wall, and a row of dwarf trees on the other, shows very fine, and so do from thence his yew hedges with trees of the same at equal distance, kept in pretty shapes with tonsure. His flowers and fruits are of the best, for the advantage of which two parallel walls about fourteen feet high, were now raised and almost finished. If the ground were not a little irregular, it would excel in other points, as well as in furniture."

Loudon (*Arboretum*, vol. i., p. 45) in referring to this account explains that by "greens," evergreens are to be understood.

Lady Capel survived her husband, and resided at Kew for many years. She died in 1721, and Kew House then passed to Samuel Molyneux, Esquire, Secretary to George II. when Prince of Wales. He had married Lady Elizabeth, grand-niece of Lord Capel. Mr. Molyneux was a scientific man, and constructed a telescope, with which, in 1725, Dr. Bradley discovered the aberration of light and the nutation of the earth's axis. Kew House having been taken down in 1803, William IV. erected a sun-dial (1832) to commemorate the site of the observatory, which seems to have been in the east wing of the house.

Simpson (p. 23) says:—

"About the year 1730, Frederick Prince of Wales obtained a long lease of Kew House from the Capel family, soon after which he commenced a fresh arrangement of the pleasure grounds, which were laid out, and additional plantations made, under the direction of the celebrated Kent, who was also engaged in the decoration of the house itself."

The Prince of Wales died in 1751. His widow, the Princess Augusta of Saxe Gotha, Dowager Princess of Wales, continued to live at Kew. She died in 1772, but in the preceding 20 years she gave to Kew Gardens the definitely scientific character which they have ever since retained.

In 1759 William Aiton, who had been a pupil of Philip Miller (born in 1691, and the only man whom Pulteney knew who had seen the botanist Ray) at the Physic Garden, Chelsea, was engaged by the Dowager Princess to establish at Kew a Botanic, or as it was then called, a Physic Garden. John Haverfield was the chief gardener.

#### JOHN HAVERFIELD.

Haverfield, it appears from Rogers (p. 21), was recommended by Lord Bute. On the death of George II. in 1760, Haverfield seems to have been put in charge of the Richmond and Aiton of Kew Gardens. Haverfield died October 29, 1784, age 90, and Aiton then succeeded to the entire management of both the Royal Gardens at Kew and Richmond (Rogers, p. 25).

#### GREAT STOVE.

In the next few years very extensive works were carried out, and no pains seem to have been spared to get help from the most competent people. In the Correspondence of Linnæus (vol. ii., pp. 41, 42) there is a letter (1758) from the distinguished physiologist, the Reverend Dr. S. Hales, F.R.S., describing his plan for warming a large plant house which the Princess proposed to erect.

"The Princess will build a hot greenhouse, 120 feet long, next spring, at Kew, with a view to have exotics of the hottest climates, in which my pipes, to convey incessantly pure warm air, will probably be very serviceable. And as there will be several partitions in the greenhouse I have proposed to have the glass in some of

the rooms covered with shutters in winter, to keep the cold out, which will make a perpetual spring and summer, with an incessant succession of pure warm air. What a scene is here opened for improvements in greenhouse vegetation !”

It is probable that the building referred to was the large hothouse, 110 feet long, which, according to the privately printed “Records of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew,” by the late John Smith, A.L.S. (p. ix)—

“was erected [in 1761] by Sir Wm. Chambers, then Royal architect, being at that time the largest hothouse in this country, and in after years known as the Great Stove.”

It stood not far from the Temple of the Sun, and was taken down in 1861 ; the old *Wistaria sinensis*, which is coiled on a circular frame, was trained on its brickwork. Gosse gives a view of it (Wanderings, p. 205).

Chambers gives the following account (p. 3) of this stove in the description which he published in 1763 (at the expense of the Princess Dowager) of the buildings and gardens at Kew :—

“The Physic or Exotic Garden was not begun before the year 1760 ; so that it cannot possibly be yet in its perfection ; but from the great botanical learning of him who is the principal manager [no doubt Lord Bute], and the assiduity with which all curious productions are collected from every part of the globe, without any regard to expense, it may be concluded that in a few years, this will be the amplest and best collection of curious plants in Europe. For the cultivation of those plants I have built several stoves ; and amongst others a very large one, of which there are the plans, elevations, and sections in the seventh plate. Its extent from east to west is one hundred and fourteen foot ; the center is occupied by a bark-stove sixty foot long. . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

“The back-stove in the center is heated by four furnaces ; two of these serve to warm the flues under the pavement, and two to warm those in the back wall, of which there are five revolutions. The flues are all of them 9 inches wide and two foot high. Those in the back-wall are divided from the house by a brick-on-edge wall, and separated from each other by foot-tiles. Between some of them are placed air pipes for the introduction of fresh air, which by that means is warmed in its passage, and becomes very beneficial to the plants.

\* \* \* \* \*

“On the outside of the back-stove, in front, there is a border covered with glass for bulbous roots, which by the assistance of the flues under the pavement of the stove flourish very early in the year.”

The method described of growing Cape bulbs in this country is undoubtedly the best. Smith (Records, pp. 312, 313) says :—

“The garden collection of bulbs were grown in glazed frames, called the bulb borders, attached to the fronts of the Botany Bay, Cape, and Palm Houses, the length of the whole being 234 feet, width 5 feet. They received heat from the flue that heated the house, through openings left in the brickwork, and in severe winters they were protected by shutters. In these borders the principal of Niven’s, Masson’s, and Bowie’s collections were well maintained for many years. In consequence of the alterations and improvements in the garden which followed the appointment of Sir W. Hooker as Director, these houses and pits were removed.”

The system has since been reverted to.

#### EARL OF BUTE.

John Stuart, third Earl of Bute, took an extremely active part in developing the botanical side of Kew. He had been lord of the bedchamber to the Prince of Wales, and on his death became groom of the stole to his son, afterwards George III. George II. died in 1760,



and in 1761 Lord Bute was made Secretary of State, and for a short time (1762-3) Prime Minister. He took throughout his life a keen interest in botany, and died in 1792 a victim to his favourite pursuit. "Seeing a new plant on the cliff [near Christchurch, in Hampshire], he climbed towards it, and received a severe fall, which brought on "an illness of which he died."

Lord Bute's interest in botany has scarcely received the appreciation it deserved. It was undoubtedly real, and was, in fact, apart from his brief political career, the principal occupation of his life. In the "Memoir and Correspondence" of Sir J. E. Smith (vol. i., p. 402), a letter from Dr. Pulteney, dated Blandford, October 14, 1792, is printed, describing Lord Bute's botanical library in Hampshire:—

"I had lately, in my attendance upon one of the family, an opportunity of spending a few hours in the botanical library of the late Earl of Bute. It is, indeed, very rich in books and dried specimens, as well as in volumes of paintings of plants; and it appears that the Earl preserved his taste to the last, as I observed all the latest expensive works. There are (thick and thin) more than 300 folios, *strictly* botanical, and quartos and octavos in proportion; very many of the old authors, and some very scarce ones; a conservatory almost 300 feet long, full of fine plants, growing and flourishing in the soil (not in pots), like an Indian grove. To this add a garden of four acres, walled round, and full of hardy plants, and all this within 150 yards of the sea."

In a rare tract, attributed to Horne Tooke (who in 1760 was appointed vicar of Brentford), and entitled "The Petition of an Englishman" (1765), there is a view which is described as "A true and accurate plan of some part of Kew Green." On this two houses are marked as in the occupation of Lord Bute. One, "The House in which Lord Bute's family resides," is now part of Cambridge Cottage. The other, "A House built for Lord Bute to study in," is the present Church House. It is very likely that while residing at Kew he kept there his library and dried plants. Between the garden of this house and Kew Gardens there was a door of communication which was the subject at the time of ill-natured suggestion, but probably meant no more than that Lord Bute's books were available for the purposes of the garden.

As a matter of fact this turns out to be more than probable. In the Kew Museums there is a copy of a slightly different version of the same print, from the Political Register, and appended to the descriptive letterpress is the following statement:—

"In a series of letters some time ago, in the public prints, signed Anti Sejanus, a charge was brought against the favourite, of building palaces, villas, &c. which occasioned an answer from his best informed advocate, in the following words:—

"The only villa that the Earl of Bute hath had within the compass of three years, is a small old house upon Kew Green, with a new detached brick building on one side of the garden, used by him in part for a library, and in part occupied by an under servant of the royal family. See a letter signed J. [ . ], in the 'Public Advertiser,' of Monday, August 26, 1765."

The second initial is lost, but it may be conjectured that the writer was John Haverfield, who was a protégé of Lord Bute's.

Lord Bute has a place in botanical literature as the author of one of the rarest of books. It was entitled "Botanical Tables, containing the "different Familys of British Plants, distinguished by a few obvious "parts of fructification rang'd in a synoptical method." It was in nine volumes, quarto, without place or date. Dryander says:—"Operis "hujus, splendidi magis quam utilis, duodecim tantum exemplaria "impressa sunt." A good deal of information about it will be found in the "Gardeners' Chronicle" for December 20, 1879 (pp. 796-7). Of

the twelve copies Lord Bute retained two, and one of these was sold in 1798 for 120*l*. The Kew Library contains an imperfect copy of proofs before letters of the plates.

The artist employed was Johannes Sebastian Mueller, who was born at Nürnberg in 1715. He emigrated to this country and anglicized his name to John Miller. In 1780 he began the publication of a fine series of coloured plates of rare and interesting flowering plants. One of these was *Phormium tenax* (New Zealand flax) probably from a dried specimen. Three others were from specimens flowered at Kew :—*Stuartia virginica*, *Strelitzia Reginae* (in 1779) and *Lagerstræmia indica*. The project came to an end with his death in London in 1780.

William Curtis, the founder in 1787 of the Botanical Magazine (which since 1841 has been prepared at Kew), "commenced in 1771 " the 'Flora Londinensis,' a magnificently illustrated folio work, which " almost ruined its author, and was never completed." In 1777 he dedicated the first volume :—

"To the Right Honourable John Stuart Earl of Bute, &c. The Mæcenas of the present Age: This first volume of the Flora Londinensis. Begun under His Auspices, and encouraged by His Liberality, Is, with the sincerest Gratitude, Inscribed by His most obliged, Humble Servant, W. Curtis."

#### DUKE OF ARGYLE.

In Peter Collinson's manuscripts printed in the Transactions of the Linnean Society (vol. x., p. 275), there is a reference to Lord Bute's share in the works which were carried on at this time :—

"In the Duke of Argyll's wood stands the largest New England Weymouth pine. This, and his largest cedars of Lebanon now standing, were all raised by him from seed in the year 1725 at his seat at Whitton, near Hounslow.

"This spring, 1762, all the Duke of Argyll's trees and shrubs were removed to the Princess of Wales's garden at Kew, which now excels all others, under the direction of Lord Bute."

The trees were no doubt planted in the old Arboretum, which in part still exists near the Main Gate on Kew Green. Many have perished and have been removed from age. But those that remain include some of the finest specimens of rare trees in the Gardens; in particular, the great Turkey oak near the Temple of the Sun is said to have been planted at this time.

#### SIR WILLIAM CHAMBERS.

In 1763 Sir William Chambers, the architect of Somerset House, published (as already mentioned) at the expense of the Princess Augusta, a large work entitled "Plans, Elevations, Sections, and Perspective Views of the Gardens and Buildings at Kew in Surrey, the "Seat of Her Royal Highness the Princess Dowager of Wales." In the account quoted below (p. 2) it is not very clear whether he is speaking of Kent's work or his own. The Gardens as they exist to-day are the result of the labours of so many hands, as the taste of each successive possessor modified what had been done before, that it is not easy to say whose influence is now most predominant. But judging from contemporary prints the aspect of the Gardens in the middle of the eighteenth century must have been much more formal than it is at present. It recalls more the style which obtained at Versailles and other continental gardens of the time. Gradually it seems to have given



way to a less artificial treatment, and to that kind of landscape gardening which is distinctively known as English. This is best suited to the climatic conditions of the country, and Art only interferes to make the most pleasing use of the materials which Nature provides.

"The gardens of Kew are not very large, nor is their situation by any means advantageous; as it is low and commands no prospects. Originally the ground was one continued dead flat, the soil was in general barren, and without either wood or water. With so many disadvantages it was not easy to produce anything tolerable in gardening; but princely munificence, guided by a director, equally skilled in cultivating the earth and in the polite arts, overcame all difficulties. What was once a desert is now an Eden. The judgment with which art hath been employed to supply the defects of nature, and to cover its deformities, hath very justly gained universal admiration, and reflects uncommon lustre on the refined taste of the noble contriver; as the vast sums which have been expended to bring this arduous undertaking to perfection, do infinite honour to the generosity and benevolence of the illustrious founder, who with so liberal a hand distributes the superfluity of her treasures in works which serve at once to adorn the country, and to nourish its industrious inhabitants."

Since Chambers wrote most of the defects which he pointed out have been remedied, but the barrenness of the sandy and gravelly soil will always remain one of the great obstacles in the successful maintenance of the gardens.

Sir William Chambers erected throughout the grounds a number of fanciful buildings. Many of these were built of fragile materials, and apparently in great haste. Thus (p. 6) he speaks of a bridge thrown over a narrow channel of water. "The design is, in great measure, "taken from one of Palladio's wooden bridges . . . . There is "nothing remarkable in the whole except that it was erected in one "night." The less durable of the buildings, such as the Alhambra, the Mosque, the Gothic Cathedral, &c., have long disappeared. But anyone who is curious about them can see what they were like in the plates of Chambers's book where they are copiously illustrated.

Evans (Richmond, p. 126) speaks of them in 1824 :—

"These buildings, raised by Sir William Chambers about sixty years ago (though others, the aviary, the menagerie, the mosque, &c., have been demolished), are kept in such repair that they possess the freshness of modern erections."

The *Alhambra* stood a little N.E. of the Pagoda. Of the *Mosque* Chambers says (p. 6) :—

"Near the great Pagoda, on a rising ground, backed with thickets, stands the Mosque . . . . It was designed and built by me in the year 1761."

The site was certainly what is called on the Ordnance Map "Moss Hill," a name which probably is a corruption of Mosque.

The buildings that remain may be briefly enumerated, with their respective dates:—The *Orangery* (1761). According to Scheer (p. 35): "The initials of the Princess of Wales . . . . were "affixed in front of the building by William IV., in grateful remembrance of Her, who laid the foundation of all the surrounding "scenes." The building is now known as Museum III. (Timbers, &c.); it contains one large room 142 feet by 30 feet, and 25 feet high. The orange trees were removed to Kensington Palace in 1841. The *Temple of the Sun*. Of this Chambers says (p. 3): "Its figure is of "the circular Peripteros kind, but without an Attic; and there is a "particularity in the entablature of which the hint is taken from one "of the temples of Balbeck." The *Temple of Arethusa* (1758) near the Water Tower. The *Temple of Bellona* (1760), stood between the orangery, and the Temple of Æolus. It is evidently identical with the

Temple of Minden, and it must have been removed to the present site of the latter near the Unicorn Gate. Here Evans saw it in 1824 (p. 125).

The true Temple of Minden was the 'Temple of Victory. This stood in the Pleasure grounds on the hill on which the Flagstaff was afterwards erected. Chambers says (p. 5) :—

“It was built in commemoration of the signal victory obtained on the first of August 1759, near Minden, by the Allied Army, under Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, over the French army, commanded by the Marshal de Contades.”

The Temple of *Æolus* was apparently built by Chambers though he gives no date. Sir W. Hooker, in his report for 1845, says :—

“The decaying Temple of *Æolus* . . . has been removed and replaced, under the direction of Mr. Burton, by a very chaste structure of a similar kind, in stone, from the original design of Sir William Chambers.”

The *Ruined Arch* (1759), near the Temperate House, “a passage for carriages and cattle over one of the principal walks of the garden.” The *Pagoda* (1761–2) ; base 49 feet diameter, height 163 feet.

Simpson says (p. 41) :—

“All the angles of the roofs of the stories were, at the time of building the Pagoda, adorned with large dragons, eighty in number, covered with a kind of thin glass of various colours, which produced a most dazzling reflection, but which have long since been removed.”

#### SMEATON'S ENGINE.

The engine to supply the gardens with water was designed by the celebrated engineer Smeaton, and erected under his direction in 1761. “It answers,” says Chambers (p. 4) “perfectly well, raising, by means of two horses, upwards of 3,600 hogsheads of water in 12 hours.” It stood near the present Cumberland Gate, and was in use at least till 1850.

There was no material alteration in the grounds as laid out by the Princess Augusta till the present century, and John Smith, who was employed at Kew 1820, before it became a public institution, when he was appointed the first Curator, gives (“Records,” p. v) the following account of the portion dedicated to scientific purposes :—

“The space allotted consisted originally of nine acres, enclosed by walls (the ornamental building now standing, called the Temple of the Sun, being then nearly the centre of the garden), which was laid out and scientifically planted in two divisions, one containing a collection of herbaceous plants, arranged according to the Linnean system, then in its infancy, but with which Aiton had become well acquainted while serving under Miller. This division was called the Physic Garden.”

“The second division was called the Arboretum, containing all the then known introduced hardy trees and shrubs, scientifically arranged. Within the area were several glass houses.”

#### SIR JOHN HILL.

Sir John Hill, a prolific writer on gardening and botany, took much interest in Kew, and in 1758 (second ed., 1759) published an octavo volume of 458 pages, entitled *Hortus Kewensis*; being a Catalogue of the Plants Cultivated in the Garden of H.R.H. the Dowager Princess of Wales at Kew. John Smith writes: “In this catalogue 3,400 species are enumerated under their Linnean names; of that number 488 consist of hardy trees and shrubs, and 200 shrubby tender plants.”



In his book on the construction of timber (1770) Sir John Hill (p. 33) speaks of Kew as "that garden where every tree that has been seen in Europe is at hand."

In 1772 the Princess Augusta died. George III. eventually bought the freehold of Kew House and grounds from the Dowager Countess of Essex. He maintained the botanical character of the establishment with even greater energy than his mother. Lord Bute disappeared in the affairs of Kew, and the place of botanical adviser which he had filled in the lifetime of the Princess Augusta was now taken by Sir Joseph Banks, who was virtually through the greater part of his life Director of the Gardens. Meantime Aiton had become Superintendent. Thornton published (1799) a graceful portrait of Hill with a view of Kew House. He styles him "First Superintendent of the Royal Gardens at Kew." But there seems to be no evidence of his ever having occupied such a position.

#### FRANCIS MASSON.

In 1772 the practice was commenced of sending out collectors. In the Banksian Correspondence at the British Museum there is a Memorandum (without date) addressed to the King by Sir Joseph Banks in his capacity as President of the Royal Society, from which the following paragraphs are extracted :—

"In the year 1772 Sir John Pringle, late President of the Royal Society, made application to His Majesty that Mr. Masson, then one of the under gardeners at Kew, might be appointed to reside for some time at the Cape of Good Hope, in order to collect there seeds and living plants for the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew. His Majesty being graciously pleased to honour this plan with his Royal approbation, and to signify to Sir John Pringle that Mr. Masson would be allowed his expenses, provided that they did not exceed 200*l.* a year, and a recompence on his return of 100*l.* a year, Mr. Masson sail'd for that place, and was absent from England about 3 years [1774-6].

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"In the course of this voyage Mr. Masson collected and sent home a profusion of plants unknown till that time to the Botanical Gardens in Europe, a full account of which will appear in Mr. Aiton's Catalogue of the Plants in the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew, which is nearly ready for publication; by means of these, Kew Garden has in great measure attained to that acknowledg'd superiority which it now holds over every similar establishment in Europe; some of which at Trianon, Paris, Upsala, &c. till lately vied with each other for pre-eminence, without admitting even a competition from any English garden."

Francis Masson was born at Aberdeen in 1741. He was the first and one of the most able and successful of the numerous gardeners sent out from Kew to collect living plants for the garden. From the Cape he sent home a very large number of living plants, amounting, according to a letter from him to Linnæus, to 400 species, including new genera.

Sir James Smith, writing in Rees's Cyclopædia :—

"well recollects the pleasure which the novel sight of an African geranium in Yorkshire and Norfolk gave him about forty years ago. Now, every garden and cottage window is filled with numerous species of that beautiful tribe, and every greenhouse glows with the innumerable bulbous plants and splendid heaths of the Cape. For all these we are principally indebted to Mr. Masson; besides a multitude of rarities, more difficult of preservation or propagation, confined to the more curious collections."

One of the most interesting of these was the plant formerly known as *Encephalartos Caffer* (*E. longifolius*). This was introduced by Masson in 1775. "In 1819 it produced a male cone, which, being "considered remarkable, led Sir Joseph Banks to come and see it, such "being his last visit to the garden." (Smith, Records, p. 132.) The plant still exists in the Palm-house.

Masson died in North America. Mr. James Lee writes from Hammersmith, March 11, 1806, to Sir James Smith (Memoir, vol. ii., p. 117) :—

“We are sorry to have to communicate to you the death of our dear friend Masson, who died at Montreal in January last. We lament his fate most sincerely. He was hardly dealt by, in being exposed to the bitter cold of Canada in the decline of life, after twenty-five years’ service in a hot climate,—and all for a pittance. He has done much for botany and science, and deserves to have some lasting memorial given of his extreme modesty, good temper, generosity, and usefulness.”

Lee returns to the same subject, July 9, 1812 (Smith, Memoir, ii., p. 183) :—

“I mentioned to you that I thought he had been ill paid, considering what he had done for the science of botany. He explored the Cape of Good Hope twice, Madeira, the Canaries, Azores, Spain, Gibraltar, Tangier, Minorca, Majorca, the West Indies, and Canada. Masson was of a mild temper, persevering in his pursuits even to a great enthusiasm, of great industry, which his specimens and drawings of fish, animals, insects, plants, and views of the countries he passed through, evince; and though he passed a solitary life in distant countries from society, his love of natural history never forsook him. Characters like him seem, for the present, dwindling in the world, but I trust they will revive.”

He made his second voyage to the Cape, whence he again sent numerous plants to Kew from 1786 to 1795, between the time of his visit to the West Indies and North America. In 1796 he published a folio volume of coloured figures and descriptions of the *Stapelieæ* of South Africa.

#### L’HERITIER.

L’heritier de Brutelle, a French botanist, came to England in 1786–7, and studied the Kew collections, which appear to have been freely placed at his disposal. He published in 1788, in Paris, a large folio with 34 plates. He brought over Redouté, the celebrated French botanical artist, to make the drawings. The title of the book is “Sertum Anglicum, seu plantæ rariores, quæ in hortis juxta Londinum imprimis in horto regio Kewensi excoluntur.”

In the preface he says :—

“Indefesso quindecim mensium labore, plantas delineandas curavi in suo genere pretiosissimas, non sine magnâ hortorum admiratione, qui et affluenti plantarum copiâ et industriâ colendi, famâ guadent non immeritâ.”

He describes many of Masson’s introductions. Amongst these may be mentioned, *Cineraria cruenta*, the parent of our garden Cinerarias; the singular Elephant’s Foot (*Tamus Elephantipes*); and the well-known Cape bulb, *Eucomis punctata*. He also first figures and describes *Chloranthus inconspicuus*. He mentions its reputed use in China for scenting tea, but evidently does not believe it, and remarks “omnino inodorus est.” L’heritier was assassinated in Paris in 1800.

#### WILLIAM COBBETT.

William Cobbett was at one time (about 1773) employed as a gardener at Kew. He tells us :—

“At eleven years of age my employment was clipping of box-edges and weeding beds of flowers in the garden of the Bishop of Winchester, at the Castle of Farnham, my native town. I had always been fond of beautiful gardens; and a



gardener who had just come from the King's Gardens, at Kew, gave me such a description of them as made me instantly resolve to work in these gardens. The next morning, without saying a word to anyone, off I set with no clothes, except those above my back, and with thirteen half-pence in my pocket. I found I must go to Richmond, and I accordingly went on from place to place inquiring my way thither."

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"The singularity of my dress, the simplicity of my manner, my confidence and lively air, and doubtless his own compassion besides, induced the gardener, who was a Scotsman, to give me victuals, find me lodging, and set me to work. And it was during this period that I was at Kew that the present King (William IV.) laughed at the oddness of my dress, while I was sweeping the grass-plot round the foot of the Pagoda."

#### DAVID NELSON.

In the latter part of the century, the Kew collectors follow one another in pretty rapid succession. Another gardener, David Nelson, was assistant botanist on Cook's third voyage (1776-1779). Subsequently he went with Captain Bligh in the "Bounty" on the voyage to the South Seas for the purpose of introducing the bread-fruit tree into the West Indies. He was among those set adrift by the mutinous crew and died from the long exposure, after reaching Timor in 1789.

Nelson had as an assistant William Brown, described as a "gardiner." They were both "skilful and careful men . . . appointed at Sir "Joseph Bank's recommendation." But while Nelson stuck to Bligh, Brown remained with the mutineers. His history is otherwise unknown.

Bligh states that the expedition was undertaken from

"the King having been graciously pleased to comply with a request from the merchants and planters interested in His Majesty's West Indian possessions, that the bread-fruit tree might be introduced into those islands."

On arriving at Timor (Voyage, p. 239) :—

"I requested in one of my first visits to the Governor, that Nelson might have permission to walk about the country in search of plants, which was readily granted, with an offer of whatever assistance I should think necessary, and the Governor assured me that the country was well worth examination, as it abounded with many curious and medicinal plants. From this indulgence I derived no benefit; for Nelson, who since we left New Holland, had been but of a weak condition, about this time was taken ill, in consequence of a cold caused by imprudently leaving off warm clothing."

L'heritier founded the famous genus *Eucalyptus* on *E. obliqua* a species which he figured in the "Sertum Anglicum," and which had been found by Nelson in Van Dieman's Land. It was first introduced, however, into cultivation by Capt. Furneaux in 1774, who commanded the "Adventure" in Cook's second voyage.

Anthony Pantaleon Hove, M.D., a Pole, was employed by Sir Joseph Banks and Kew to collect plants in India, 1787-9.

#### FLOWERING OF ORCHIDS.

John Smith (Records, p. 228) quotes Sir James Smith :—

"We have scarcely seen any one species of this genus [*Epidendrum*], except in a dry state, before the year 1787, when *E. cochleatum* flowered at Kew, nor was it till October 1788, that *E. fragrans* of Swartz exhibits its fragrant and elegant bloom in the same rich collection. At present, several species are to be seen flowering in the spring and autumn."

## COOK'S VOYAGES.

Smith (Records, p. 9) says :—

"It was generally understood that the first New Holland plants introduced to this country were due to the voyages of Captain Cook, between the years 1768 and 1780, but, according to Aiton's 'Hortus Kewensis,' 1813, and an 'Addenda,' 1814, I find only two plants introduced during the period of these voyages, *Casuarina torulosa* and *C. stricta*, the first in 1771, the second 1775, both of which were accredited to Sir Joseph Banks (then Mr. Banks), who with Dr. Solander, was attached to Cook's voyage as naturalist."

The object of the first voyage was to observe the Transit of Venus in 1769 in the South Pacific.

Erasmus Darwin probably had Cook's voyage in mind in writing the rather turgid lines which are to be found in the fourth canto of the "Botanic Garden" published in 1791.

So sits enthron'd in vegetable pride,  
Imperial Kew by Thames' Glittering side,  
Obedient sails from realms unfurrow'd bring,  
For her the unnam'd progeny of Spring,  
\* \* \* \* \*  
Delighted Thames through tropic umbrage glides,  
And flowers Antarctic bending o'er his tides.

The New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*) was introduced in 1789.

Smith has perhaps underrated the horticultural results of Cook's voyages. A more critical examination of the Hortus Kewensis would probably considerably enlarge the list. In Salisbury's Paradisus Londinensis (t. xv.) Capt. Furneaux, who commanded the "Adventure" is credited with the first *Eucalyptus* (*E. obliqua*), *Sideroxylon sericeum* and *Leptospermum lanigerum*.

## THE ELDER AITON.

In 1789, Aiton published his "Hortus Kewensis"; or a catalogue of the plants cultivated in the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

He describes himself as "Gardener to His Majesty," to whom he dedicates "this attempt to make public the present state of the Royal "Botanic Garden at Kew." He continues :—

"Small as the book appears, the composition of it has cost him a large portion of the leisure allowed by the daily duties of his station during more than sixteen years; in all that time it has been thought worthy the assistance of men more learned than himself."

According to Scheer (p. 19) these were the Earl of Bute, Sir Joseph Banks, Dr. Solander, and Dryander, who was Banks librarian. John Smith (p. vi), says :

"In this work 5,500 species are described and classified according to the Linnean system with the native country of each species, date of introduction, and by whom introduced."

The few facts of William Aiton's biography may be recorded; they are taken from a letter preserved in the Kew Library :—

"He was born at Hamilton, in Lanarkshire, in 1731. He came to England in 1754, and was employed at Chelsea. In 1759 he was engaged to superintend the Botanical Gardens at Kew. In 1764 he became acquainted with Sir Joseph Banks. In 1783 he had charge of the pleasure and kitchen gardens at Kew. In 1789 he published his Hortus Kewensis. He died on February 2nd, 1793, in his 63rd year."



The Marchioness of Rockingham writes to Sir James Smith (Memoir, vol. ii., p. 58), from Hillingdon House, March 3, 1793:—

“ I little thought five years ago that I could have felt so much concern for the death of Mr. Aiton ; but I had not seen him then, and only looked upon him as the Kew gardener ; but the single quarter of an hour that he was with me occasioned an instantaneous conversion. I was quite charmed with the plainness of his manners, without a grain of that pomposity one might have expected ; but on the contrary, quite pleasant and communicative in his profession ; in short, he took my fancy so much that I cannot help feeling infinite regret that so great and good a man in his line should now be no more.”

He must have been held in no small esteem. He is buried at Kew, and amongst those who bore his pall in testimony, Simpson says (p. 72), to his “ professional abilities and private worth,” was Sir Joseph Banks, the Rev. Dr. Goodenough (afterwards Bishop of Carlisle), Dr. Dryander, and Zoffany the artist.

His funeral sermon was preached at Brentford by the Rev. W. Smith, February 17 following. The sermon was printed, and Aiton is described as “ His Majesty’s Principal Gardener at Kew.” The following passage (p. 23) at any rate shows that his reputation was not unknown in foreign countries:—

“ Not only was our friend universally known and esteemed in his own country, but his name and fame have extended to distant kingdoms, and to every quarter of the globe. I myself have found them passports in various places abroad, and through his recommendation alone have been introduced to men of genius and science, even in foreign courts.”

#### ARCHIBALD MENZIES.

“ Captain Vancouver,” says Smith (Records, p. 9), “ in his voyage of survey (between 1791 and 1795), was accompanied by Archibald Menzies as [botanist and] surgeon. The ship touching at King George’s Sound, on the south-west coast of Australia, Menzies made a rich collection of herbarium specimens and seeds, and was the first to transmit cones of *Banksia* and other *Proteaceæ* to Kew from that part of New Holland.”

Menzies introduced the now well-known *Araucaria imbricata*. Smith (Records, p. 287) tells the story:—

“ At a dinner given by the Viceroy of Chili to the captain and officers of the ship part of the dessert consisted of nuts which Menzies (who was a good botanist) had not before seen. Instead of eating all his share, he took some with him on board, and having obtained a box of earth, planted them, when they sprouted, and he succeeded in bringing five plants to England, which were safely received at Kew. . . . In 1833 King William IV. presented one to Lady Granville for her collection at Dropmore. It was then about 5 ft. high, growing in a tub ; it is now (1830) a fine tree 60 feet high ; this is, however, much inferior to another plant at Dropmore, said to be the produce of a cutting stolen by a lady from the original plant at Kew nearly fifty years ago.”

According to Loudon (Arboretum, vol. iv., pp. 2435–6)—

“ Menzies . . . brought home living plants, which he presented to Sir Joseph Banks, who planted one of them in his own garden at Spring Grove, and sent the others to Kew. From this circumstance, the tree was called at first in England Sir Joseph Banks’s pine. The tree at Kew was kept in the greenhouse till 1806 or 1808, when it was planted out where it now stands, by Mr. McNab, the present (1838) superintendent of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. After it was planted out, not being considered quite hardy, it was protected during winter with a temporary frame, covered with mats ; and having become habituated to this mode of treatment, it has been considered unsafe to leave it off.”

The unfortunate tree seems always to have had a bad time. Neill, writing in 1817 (Horticultural Tour, p. 77), says:—

“ The most magnificent specimen of Chili pine (*Araucaria imbricata*) at Kew Gardens was irretrievably injured by its presence at a single gala at Carlton House,

owing to the servants having very imprudently attached lamps to the branches of the tree."

Scheer writing in 1840 (pp. 41, 42) refers to the original specimen of *Araucaria imbricata*.

"Still the lion of the gardens, King William, who, in his frequent visits to Kew, never omitted going over the Botanic Gardens, and latterly, when walking became inconvenient, drove through them in a pony phaeton, and at all events looked into every house, delighted to point out this superb tree to such strangers as might be with him."

It is anything but "a superb tree" now, and only lingers on as a historic curiosity.

Menzies was also the discoverer (1796) of *Sequoia sempervirens*, the redwood of California.

The following particulars are taken from his epitaph. He was a navy surgeon, and served in the fleet commanded by Admiral Rodney, April 12, 1782. He twice circumnavigated the globe, first with Captain Colnett and afterwards with Captain Vancouver. He afterwards practised his profession in London, and died at Notting Hill, February 15, 1842, aged 88 years.

It is remarkable that Vancouver himself is buried at Petersham, a parish with which Kew was long ecclesiastically united.

Rodney's squadron had another point of contact with botany. Bryan Edwards ("History of the West Indies," vol. i., p. 477), says:—

"This plant [the Mango], with several others, as well as different kinds of seeds, was found on board a French ship (bound from the Isle de France for Hispaniola) taken by Capt. Marshall, of His Majesty's ship 'Flora,' one of Lord Rodney's squadron, in June 1782, and sent as a prize to this island [Jamaica]. By Capt. Marshall, with Lord Rodney's approbation, the whole collection was deposited in Mr. East's Garden [at Liguanea], where they have been cultivated with great assiduity and success."

#### CHRISTOPHER SMITH.

Christopher Smith took the place of David Nelson and went with Bligh on his second and successful voyage, 1791. In 1793, Captain Bligh brought home in the "Providence" a large collection of living West Indian plants made by Smith, but recorded as introduced by the former in the "Hortus Kewensis." Smith was afterwards appointed botanist to the East India Company, and he prepared a large collection of living plants at Calcutta for Kew.

In 1797 he visited the Moluccas, where he made a large collection of plants, especially herbarium specimens. In 1805-6 he was at Penang, where he died.

#### JAMES WILES.

Christopher Smith was accompanied on Bligh's voyage by James Wiles, who had been in the employ of R. A. Salisbury, the botanist, and who was to take charge of the plants on their arrival in the West Indies. Three hundred young Bread-fruit trees were landed at Jamaica in February 1793, and placed in the Botanic Garden at Liguanea (9 miles from Kingston) under his care.

From the "Handbook of Jamaica, 1890-1" (pp. 158-9), it appears that the Liguanea Garden (Gordon Town) had been formed by Mr. Hinton East.

"Mr. Bryan Edwards, in the 'History of the British West Indies,' remarks, that the Assembly of Jamaica, co-operating with the benevolent intentions of His



Majesty (to introduce valuable exotics and productions of the most distant regions to the West Indies) purchased in 1792-3 the magnificent Botanical Garden of Mr. East, and placed it on the public establishment, under the care of skilful gardeners, one of whom, Mr. James Wiles, had circumnavigated the globe with Captain Bligh."

In the Kew library there is a volume of Bank's correspondence, which contains some interesting letters relating to the transaction.

R. A. Salisbury writes, 17th March 1793, acknowledging a fine collection of East Indian seeds. He concludes :—

"I have a long letter from Wiles written in great health and spirits, and most heartily congratulate you on the grand object he went for being so nearly and no doubt by this time accomplished."

Wiles writes to Banks :—

" Bath, Jamaica,  
" 16th October 1793.

" The Committee appointed for the bread fruit and other plants, informed me they intended sending you an account of the progress and increase of the trees, but I believe they have neglected it.

" I have, Sir, the pleasure of seeing not only all the plants immediately under my own care, but likewise all those distributed over the whole parish of St. Thomas in the East thriving with astonishing vigor ; but I am sorry to hear several are dead in some of the parishes to leeward. \* \* \* \*

" I hope the House of Assembly will purchase a piece of ground for a new nursery, as the present one labours under many great disadvantages."

Six years later he writes :—

" Botanic Garden, Liguanea, Jamaica,  
" 12th April 1799.

" The Committee for superintending the Public Botanic Gardens, . . . . . recommended to the House of Assembly a vote of thanks to you for your kind intention of supplying Jamaica with the spice plants of the East, particularly the Nutmeg. \* \* \* \*

" The bread fruit tree is so easily propagated by suckers that it is now become very common over the whole island, indeed all the south sea plants have succeeded remarkably well here.

" I have the pleasure to observe the taste for plants daily increase in this island ; several gentlemen are now forming gardens on a liberal scale."

Two years later he writes from the same address :—

" 16th May 1801.

" I know not whether the Committee superintending our botanic gardens have written to you for a botanist to take charge of them or not, I rather think none of the members will give themselves that trouble ; however, Sir, should they make the application and you comply with it, I shall esteem it my duty to give the gentleman you may recommend my best advice and assistance at all times, although I cannot help repeating here what I mentioned in my last letter—that my successor will, I fear, meet with much chagrin and disappointment.

" The bread fruit tree is now perfectly naturalized in Jamaica, indeed all the south sea plants have been propagated abundantly. \* \* \* \*

" We wish very much for plants of the Nutmeg and true Mangosteen. I have received clove plants twice from St. Domingo, but they died away notwithstanding I paid the utmost attention to their culture."

Wiles appears to have still remained in charge of the Gardens in 1805, but his further history is unknown. In 1810 the Liguanea Garden was sold by the House of Assembly.

#### PETER GOOD.

Peter Good, a Kew gardener, was sent to Calcutta in 1796 to bring home the collection prepared by Christopher Smith. On his return

he remained at Kew as foreman till 1801, when he was appointed assistant to Robert Brown, the botanist attached to Flinders's voyage of survey of the coast of Australia. Kew was largely indebted to him for the fine collection of *Proteaceæ* it formerly possessed. In the early part of their voyage they touched at King George's Sound, where large collections were made. They then surveyed the whole of the south coast of New Holland, passing through Bass's Straits to Port Jackson, where shortly after Good caught fever, and died at Sydney in June 1803. His collection of seeds, however, was forwarded to Kew.

#### FRANCIS BAUER.

A striking picture of the activity and energy which were employed in augmenting the Kew collections in the eighteenth century, is afforded by the younger Aiton's preface to Francis Bauer's "Delineations of Exotic Plants cultivated in the Royal Gardens at Kew" published in 1796. Bauer was an Austrian, who, coming to England in 1788, was, by the liberality of Sir Joseph Banks, and with the King's sanction, attached as draughtsman to the Botanic Garden. Banks not merely paid his salary during his own life, but provided for its continuance after his death.

"A variety of circumstances have concurred, since the publication of the *Hortus Kewensis*, by which the number of curious plants, cultivated in the Royal Gardens at Kew, have received material increase; Mr. Masson, who has travelled as a botanist, at His Majesty's expense, for twenty-five years, was never so fortunate in furnishing abundance of fresh seeds and living plants as during his last mission to the Cape of Good Hope. The settlement of a colony on the coast of New South Wales has opened to us a fresh source of botanical wealth, in a climate nearly congenial to our own; and of this a large share has been transmitted to Kew, by Arthur Philip, Esq., the Governor. William Bligh, Esq., Commander of H.M.S. 'Providence,' who was sent to the South Seas for the purpose of carrying the bread-fruit from thence to the British Colonies in the West Indies, and had orders to replace such of the useful plants as might die during the passage or be deposited in the places of their destination, by such curious plants as the gardeners attending the expedition could procure, has also been enabled to place in Kew Gardens some hundreds of species, natives of the East or of the West Indies, which had never before been seen in Europe.

"No events, however, have so materially tended to the increase of the Royal collection as that decided preference which our most gracious Queen has of late condescended to bestow upon the science of botany, and the rapid progress Her Majesty, and the Princesses, her daughters, have made in the most difficult parts of that pleasing study; the nobility and gentry of England have since this was known, more than ever attached themselves to a pursuit honoured by the interesting patronage of their beloved Queen; individuals have vied with each other in presenting to Kew Gardens such plants as they thought likely to make an acceptable addition to the collection; commanders of ships have employed the leisure of their homeward bound passages in taking care of the vegetable produce of the climates they had visited, anxious to furnish on their return any degree of increase to Her Majesty's amusements. The Directors of the East India and of the Sierra Leone Companies [Afzelius was botanist to the latter Company in 1794] have forwarded to Kew such plants as their servants abroad were able to procure for them; and the Government of Jamaica has sent a public present to Her Majesty, of plants collected in that island.

"Amidst the uniform protection which the Royal owner of these gardens has constantly afforded to every species of science, Botany had not a right to expect more than its proportional share; the increase of conveniences of every kind in Kew Garden has, however, by His Majesty's royal favour, kept equal pace with the increase of plants; new houses have been built, upon a most ample scale, and of a most convenient construction; the garden itself has lately received a considerable addition of space; and the whole has been laid out, under His Majesty's immediate direction, in a manner so commodious, that it is not only capable of containing the whole of the present Collection with ease, but of receiving all such additions as may probably be made to it for several years to come."



Bauer's history is concisely given in the epitaph on his monument in Kew Church.

In memory of Francis Bauer, Esq., F.R.S., F.L.S., &c., Botanical Painter to His Majesty George III. and resident Draughtsman for fifty years to the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, where he devoted himself to the advancement of natural science; under the munificent patronage of Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., the President of the Royal Society. In the delineation of plants he united the accuracy of a profound naturalist, with the skill of the accomplished artist, to a degree which has been only equalled by his brother Ferdinand. In microscopical drawing he was altogether unrivalled, and science will be ever indebted for his elaborate illustrations of animal and vegetable structures, of which invaluable specimens are preserved in the British Museum and in the University of Gottingen. He was born at Felsperg in Austria, on the 4th of October 1758 and accompanied his friend the Baron Joseph Jacquin to England in 1788. He settled at Kew in 1790, where he lived admired, loved, and respected. He died on the 11th of December 1840, aged 82 years. The *works* of Francis Bauer are his best *monument*. Friendship inscribes this record on his honored tomb.

#### NIÉPCE.

The following extract from Scheer (p. 51), though unconnected with botany, is sufficiently interesting to deserve quotation:—

“It is somewhat remarkable that Niépce, the original discoverer of what is called the Daguerrotype, resided about the year 1827 in Kew, and induced Mr. Bauer to submit his discoveries to the Royal Society; which, however, took but little notice of them. Niépce returned to France, but left a brother at Kew, who died shortly afterwards, and was buried in our churchyard. Some of the earliest specimens of Niépce's art are now in the possession of Mr. Bauer, and there are others to be met with at Richmond.”

#### GEORGE CALEY.

Smith (Records, p. 10) says:—

“The next special collector was George Caley, who in 1801 was appointed by Sir Joseph Banks as botanical collector in New South Wales for Kew. He remained about ten years in the Colony, botanising chiefly in the country about Sydney and the Blue Mountains, and a considerable number of plants have been introduced by him.”

Among these was the *Livistona australis*, which was long one of the most striking ornaments of the Palm House. It was taken down in 1876.

Born in Yorkshire, he is said to have begun life as a stable boy, and afterwards to have been a horse doctor near Birmingham. He became interested in the study of plants from collecting them for his horse medicines. His enthusiasm attracted the attention of Sir Joseph Banks and induced the latter to send him as collector to Australia. In 1803 plants from him reached Kew. In 1811 he was at Rio on his way back. He was Superintendent of the Botanical Garden, St. Vincent, from 1816–22. Brown describes him as “*Botanicus peritus et accuratus*.” He died at Bayswater, 23rd May 1829 and is buried in the old burying ground of St. George's.

The Rev. Lansdown Guilding in his “Account of the Botanical Garden,” pp. 22, 23, says:—

“In 1821, the Government, . . . . . determined on giving up the garden, which for many years had been maintained at a great expense to the mother country, exceeding even of late the yearly sum of 700*l.* sterling. This step did not fail to cause great surprise. The nutmeg and other valuable spices had arrived at maturity; the cloves were producing annually a million of seed, and the garden, which had hitherto been comparatively of little use, was about to realise the hopes that had been entertained by its Royal patron.”

## WILLIAM KER.

In 1803 William Ker, a gardener, was sent to collect in China. He also visited Java and the Philippines. He sent home various living plants and first introduced *Cunninghamia sinensis*, *Lilium tigrinum*, and *L. japonicum*. *Kerria japonica* was named after him. In 1812 he became Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden, Ceylon.

In the following year he visited Adam's Peak, on which he discovered many new plants. He died in Ceylon in 1814 and was succeeded as superintendent by Alexander Moon.

The latter was a native of Scotland. He was at Kew in 1815. He sailed for Ceylon in 1816, and on the voyage out had the opportunity of landing at Gibraltar and the Barbary Coast from whence he sent plants. He arrived in Ceylon in 1817 and the following year sent plants to Kew. He died in 1825.

## THE YOUNGER AITON.

William Aiton had been succeeded at Kew by his son William Townsend Aiton. John Smith (pp. vi and vii) may be again quoted:—

“Assisted by Dr. Dryander, librarian to Sir Joseph Banks, and afterwards by Mr. R. Brown, he in 1813 published a second edition of his father's works in five volumes, and in 1814 a catalogue or epitome as it is called of the species contained in the five volumes, for the use of practical gardeners; it contains . 314 additional species, the total number being 11,013.

“Through the patronage of Sir Joseph Banks, and the labours of public and private collectors, the collection continued to increase, which led Mr. Aiton to prepare a second edition of the epitome, and for their future identification he had about 2,000 drawings made. In 1830 the manuscript of the new epitome was ready for printing, but consequent on the alteration in the management of the Royal Gardens made by William IV., it was postponed, and on Mr. Aiton's resigning in 1841 it was not again heard of, and at his death in 1849 it is believed to have shared the fate of being burned with all his immense correspondence and the early records of the Garden.”

In a letter published in “The Garden” (Jan. 24, 1880, p. 75) it is stated by Mr. Smith that “the drawings and plant record books were, however, spared.”

To further quote from this letter:—

“Mr. Aiton, in 1822, began to have drawings made of the new and unfigured plants then in the garden. His first artist was Thomas Duncanson (a young gardener from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh), who had a talent for drawing plants; and Mr. Aiton finding him qualified to draw the plants sufficiently accurate for them to be identified, in time he was entirely occupied in drawing, which he continued to do until the summer of 1826, when he unfortunately became insane \* \*

\* He was succeeded by George Bond, then a young gardener at Kew, who was employed in drawing for nine years, when, in 1835, he became gardener to the Earl of Powis, at Walcot, where he now is. \* \* \* The number of subjects drawn by these two artists amount to about 2,000, of which about 1,700 were drawn by Mr. Bond. \* \* \* On Mr. Aiton's retirement in 1841, his garden library, record plant books, papers, and drawings were removed to his own house, and on his death in 1849, the whole of his immense correspondence was burnt by his brother, John Aiton. \* \* \* Some time after John Aiton's death, Mr. Attwell Smith, Mr. Aiton's heir, was pleased to return them (the drawings and plant record books) directed to the care of Sir W. Hooker.”

The drawings are incorporated with the immense collection of botanical drawings and prints preserved in the Kew Library. The rescue of the record books is due to Mr. Smith. In the “Journal of Botany,” for 1884 (p. 127), he states “after John Aiton's death, on “my inquiring after them, they were restored to the gardens by a



“ Mr. Smith, a natural son of John Aiton’s, who became his heir.” The books range from 1793 to 1847, that for 1825–36 being wanting.

In the dedication to the King the younger Aiton describes his edition of the *Hortus Kewensis* as :—

“ A work rendered necessary to the public, not only by the number of plants continually sent home by your Majesty’s collectors abroad, but also by the extensive influx of curious exotics poured into it of late by your Majesty’s subjects, anxious to aid, by their individual exertions, that munificent patronage which has rendered botany a favourite pursuit among all the classes of your Majesty’s people.”

The following paragraph also deserves quoting as showing how very varied were the King’s intelligent tastes :—

“ Among the trusts confided by your Majesty’s gracious goodness to the superintendence and direction of your devoted servant, the Botanic Garden is not the only one that receives the heartfelt gratitude of an enlightened nation; the grassy lawns of the Royal Pleasure Grounds exhibit a still more interesting spectacle: it is there, where your Majesty has, by a degree of foresight, of judgment, and of patience, which are seldom united in one character, triumphed over the prejudices of your subjects, and, in defiance of ancient and deeply rooted opinions, established, by your Majesty’s own efforts, what for ages past has been deemed impossible,— the growth of the superfine wools of Spain in the happy climate of Britain.”

#### SIR JOSEPH BANKS.

The Epitome is dedicated to Sir Joseph Banks “ with a deep sense of his cordial friendship, and in gratitude for his innumerable donations of the most rare exotics to the Royal Collection of Kew.”

Scheer (p. 20) gives some illustrations :

“ We should like to see a pictorial representation of the scene of Sir Joseph Banks’s introducing the first *Hydrangea hortensis* to Kew about the beginning of 1789 for the inspection of the curious. It had begun to flower in the Custom House, and its green petals were a puzzle to the botanists of the day. The next day he exhibited it at his house in Soho Square, from whence it was removed, and lived in Kew, the parent of its numerous progeny now spread all over Europe, till within these few years. This year also saw the *Pæonia Moutan* introduced from China, and it is in the gardens to this day alive and well, a venerable monument of happier times. The common fuchsia also became then (1788) first known, and we are told that Lee sold small plants at five guineas each.”

Smith (Records, p. 268) refers to these plants :—

“ We have yet to notice three special plants, namely, *Pæonia Moutan*, *Hydrangea hortensis*, and *Fuchsia coccinea*. The original plants of these occupied a bed of earth in a small lean-to house 12 feet in length and 6 feet in width, with a low roof. In 1820 this erection was in a very dilapidated state, and it was entirely removed. The plants remaining were then protected in winter by a covering of dry fern and mats. In 1842, the site being required for another purpose, they had to be removed after having occupied that spot for 50 years.”

The *Fuchsia* was probably not *F. coccinea* a Brazilian species, but *F. magellanica* from Chili.

Simpson (p. 42) speaks of the hydrangeas as still existing in 1849 :—

“ In some of the flower beds near [the Temple of the Sun] are descendants of the original *Hydrangea hortensis*, presented to the gardens in 1789 by Sir Joseph Banks, and which began to flower in the Custom House.”

Scheer says (p. 60) :—

“ It was, we believe, the practice of Sir Joseph Banks to retain rare plants at Kew for one year after they had flowered, and then they were liberally distributed to learned societies and eminent men.”

Perhaps from constitutional diffidence Sir Joseph Banks published scarcely anything. No scientific man of his eminence probably ever

did so little personally or was the inspiring cause of so much being done by others. In every field of botany cultivated in his day he was indefatigable in his interest. The number of interesting plants which he was at the pains to introduce to cultivation through Kew was no doubt very great. In Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis* his name is of the most frequent occurrence.

Two notable plants may be singled out. In 1784 he introduced the well-known and splendid "Sacred Bean," *Nelumbium speciosum*. This has always been cultivated since at Kew, and it is not impossible that the plants now grown in the gardens descend from that introduced by Banks.

Another beautiful plant which almost certainly preserves an unbroken descent at Kew is *Strelitzia Regina*, which Banks named in honour of Queen Charlotte, who was a daughter of the Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, but which, with characteristic modesty, he allowed Aiton to publish. Another species, *Strelitzia Augusta*, may have been named in compliment to the Princess Augusta, mother of George III.

William Curtis in the third volume of the *Botanical Magazine*, t. 119, figures *Strelitzia Regina*.

"It is well known to many botanists and others, who have experienced Sir Joseph Banks' well known liberality, that previous to the publication of the *Hortus Kewensis* he made a new genus of this plant, which had before been considered as a species of *Heliconia*, and named it *Strelitzia* in honour of our most gracious Queen Charlotte, coloured engravings of which, executed under his direction, he presented to his particular friends; impressions of the same plate have been given in the aforesaid work, in which we are informed that this plant was introduced to the Royal Garden at Kew, by Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., in the year 1773, where it lately flowered."

He adds:—

"It has not, that we know of, as yet ripened its seeds in this country; till it does, or good seeds of it shall be imported, it must remain a very scarce and dear plant, as it is found to increase very slowly by its roots. Plants are said to be sold at the Cape for three guineas each."

Francis Bauer published in 1818, a work which is one of the most beautiful productions of his pencil. It is entitled:—

"*Strelitzia depicta*, or coloured figures of the known species of the genus *Strelitzia*, from the drawings in the Banksian library." This is sometimes erroneously cited under the name of Ker. H. B. Ker was, however, only the lithographer.

Banks's public services in the introduction of plants was not without appreciation at the time. In the Banksian correspondence at Kew is the following letter, which appears to be the dedication of the "Universal Botanist."

"To JOSEPH BANKS, Esq., Fellow of the Royal Society, &c., &c.

"SIR,

"THE public is highly indebted to you for the indefatigable pains you have taken to improve the science of botany, by introducing into England the vegetable beauties of such remote climates.

"Future ages will revere your name when they see the valuable productions of distant countries naturalised here and in our colonies, which must prove of great advantage to the commerce of these kingdoms.

"Tournefort travelled over the East; Sloane, Jamaica; Ray, Europe; Plumier, America; Adanson, Africa; you, Sir, have surpassed all these, by traversing from pole to pole in search of useful and salutary plants and introducing them into these realms at a very great hazard and expence.

"I am, with great respect,

"Sir,

"Your most devoted humble servant,

RICHARD WESTON.

"King's Road, Chelsea,  
"March 1, 1775."



The following correspondence, which is preserved in the Kew Library, is interesting as illustrating the position and functions which Sir Joseph Banks fulfilled in regard to Kew :—

"W. T. AITON, Esq., to The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir JOSEPH BANKS, Bart., K.B.,  
 "&c., &c.

"SIR,

"ON all subjects the most interesting to the Royal Collection at Kew you have been pleased to allow me to be directed by your greater experience, I therefore trouble you with this letter.

"I beg I may refer to your recollection that previously to the illness of the King it was His Majesty's pleasure to direct that Botanical Collectors were to be prepared and sent abroad for the express object of procuring fresh and choice supplies of seeds, roots, and plants, become necessary to be added to keep up the Royal Collection of Kew, made superior to other gardens in England by means of the frequent importations of the rarer 'Exotics'; in all cases of this kind the subject has been referred by His Majesty's command for your decision to fix upon and name those countries most proper for botanists to explore.

"The improved state of science in England, the increasing desire of novelty in botanical pursuits, the great deterioration and the loss of various plants, that no ordinary means of care could obviate, and withall the repose of botanists, awaiting orders of appointment abroad, together most anxiously beseech your kind view of this subject. I therefore entreat your mediation and support of the necessary and good cause of sending Botanical Collectors to foreign parts in search of supplies.

"On some occasions you have named Southern Africa, America, and the promising lands of New Holland, as ample fields for a productive harvest. You have also visited these countries, and consequently are the best judge of the particular tracts proper for research.

"I have in view men of sound principles and invaluable zeal for the service, having the best requisites of knowledge, and desire to offer themselves as collectors, and who will perform this duty in any part of the world. Under circumstances so favourable, and with it the most supreme blessing of general peace, I think the subject and the season to submit it to Royal approbation auspicious. I therefore humbly beg you will confer upon me the kindness of your directions to govern my proceeding with this business in the way you approve, so that I may not fail in duty to the Royal Garden at Kew when the most favourable opportunity occurs to lay this subject before His Royal Highness the Prince Regent for His Royal Highness's most gracious commands.

"I have the honour to be,

"Royal Gardens, Kew,

"Sir, &c., &c., &c.

"May 29, 1814.

"(Signed) W. T. AITON.

"To the Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir Joseph Banks,

"Bart., K.B., &c., &c."

"The R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir JOSEPH BANKS, Bart., K.B., &c., &c., to W. T. AITON, Esq.

"MY DEAR SIR,

Soho Square, June 7th, 1814.

"AMONG the innumerable indulgencies I have for a long time enjoyed, derived from the gracious kindness of our beloved and afflicted Monarch, the connection I have been permitted to form with the Royal Gardens at Kew is among those most grateful to my feelings, and I beg you to be assured that as long as I shall be permitted to continue it I shall cherish and improve it to the best of my power.

"Among the other indulgencies allowed to me on that head, I was permitted, as you, Sir, know, to draw instructions for those persons whom you from time to time recommended as properly qualified to travel as collectors for the Royal Botanic Gardens. I think I may venture to affirm that until that arrangement was interrupted by the almost impossibility of sending home living plants in ships liable to the detention of waiting for convoy, His Majesty's Gardens at Kew stood unrivalled in the whole of Europe for the extent of its collections as well as for the beauty and interest of the plants it consisted of.

"The arrival of the definite treaty with France, and the certainty that before any collection can be ready to be sent home, ships will sail as they were used to do without being subjected to any uncertain delays, makes me anxious to see the establishment of foreign collectors resumed, and the more so as the Emperor of Germany, who has formerly freighted ships at an immense expense, and sent well-educated

botanists to collect for his Garden at Schœenbrun (the only rival to Kew that I have any fear about), will no doubt resume the business of improving it.

"The climate best suited for our collectors is, as you know, the southern temperate zone, and in that part of the world no places are so productive as the Cape of Good Hope and New South Wales: if His Royal Highness the Prince Regent should permit you to engage two collectors these are the places I should wish them to be sent to. The plants of both these countries are beautiful in the extreme, and are easily managed, as they suit the conservatory and have no occasion for the unnatural heat required by the intertropical vegetable. I should wish also to have a collector sent to Bueonos Ayres, but at present, and till Spain has repossessed herself of her refractory Colonies, this cannot be thought of.

"Should you be allowed to send to the Cape of Good Hope and to New South Wales, I have no doubt of being able to give such instructions to the governors of these countries as will enable His Majesty's collectors to visit at a very reasonable expense countries hitherto unexplored, and they will add to the royal collection riches beyond the most sanguine expectations of those who have had less experience in the produce of those countries than has fallen to my lot.

"I am,

"My dear Sir,

"With real esteem and regard,

"To W. T. Aiton, Esq.,

"Royal Gardens, Kew.

"Your most faithful and most

obedient servant,

"(Signed) JOSEPH BANKS."

"TREASURY to the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sir JOSEPH BANKS, Bart., K.B., &c., &c.

"SIR,

Treasury Chambers, September 13, 1814.

"HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury the communication which you were so good as to make to me, by the desire of the Earl of Liverpool, upon the subject of the appointment of fit and proper persons to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope and elsewhere, for the purpose of collecting rare and curious plants for His Majesty's Botanic Garden at Kew, I have received their Lordships' commands to express to you their entire concurrence in the suggestions contained in that communication, and their approbation of the persons recommended by you for this service, and that their Lordships will nominate them thereto accordingly, and that their Lordships feel much gratified by, and will most readily adopt your offer of auditing the accounts sent home by the collectors, and of certifying them to the Treasury, when sent home for their Lordships' approbation. And I am further to acquaint you that their Lordships' will from time to time issue to Mr. Aiton, the Superintendent of His Majesty's Botanic Garden at Kew, such sums as you may recommend for this service, for the application of which Mr. Aiton will be accountable only to their Lordships' Board. And that with a view to provide for such outfit of the persons appointed on this service as may be necessary, their Lordships have directed Mr. Spur of this office to issue to Mr. Aiton the sum of 200*l*. upon his application for the same.

"And my Lords have further commanded me to request that you will have the goodness to give either immediately from yourself or through Mr. Aiton, as you may deem most expedient, such instructions to the collectors for their governance and conduct in the discharge of their duties as may appear to you best calculated to ensure a due and faithful execution of the service entrusted to them, and such a satisfactory result as may reasonably be expected from their employment in it, which instructions their Lordships have directed them most implicitly and punctually to observe and obey.

"Conformably to your suggestions with regard to the passage of these persons to the first objects of their destination, my Lords have requested the Lords of the Admiralty to direct that they may be provided with a passage in the first Man of War which may sail for Rio de Janeiro, and that they may be entered on the ships books for provisions, and be allowed to mess with the warrant officer, and that they will direct the officer commanding His Majesty's Naval Forces at Rio de Janeiro to give any similar facilities which may occur for their transport to the Cape of Good Hope.

My Lords have also requested the Earl Bathurst to direct the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope to provide for the Service of the Collectors a Waggon, a couple of Teams of Oxen for their Journeys, a Hottentot Driver and two or three more to attend the oxen, and also to furnish the Collectors with the usual order upon the boors for boorspans of Oxen, and if they should go beyond the limits of the Colony,



with an order to the Landrost to give them the protection of a few boors, which is termed a Commando.

"I have the honour to be,

Sir,

"Your very faithful and obedient

Servant

"(Signed) GEO. HARRISON.

"The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup>

"Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., K.B.

"&c &c &c"

#### ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

Allan and Richard Cunningham were the sons of Allan Cunningham, a native of Renfrewshire. They were born at Wimbledon, the first in 1791, the second in 1793. Allan was placed in a conveyancer's office. His engagement by Aiton to assist in the preparation of the second edition of the *Hortus Kewensis* diverted him to botany. In the "Biographical Sketch" of him his friend Robert Heward writes (p. 2):—

"Shortly after the publication of this work (1814), the political aspect of Europe reverting once more to the state of peace, the subject of sending out botanical collectors was revived by the late lamented Sir Joseph Banks and the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (Mr. Aiton), and the Government having acceded to the application of those gentlemen arrangements were subsequently made for forwarding two botanical collectors to the southern hemisphere."

Sir Joseph Banks having recommended Allan Cunningham as being competent to fulfil the necessary duties of botanical collector to the Royal Gardens at Kew, he received his appointment September 9, 1814, and on October 3 following sailed for Brazil in company with James Bowie.

There they spent two years. Bowie had entered the garden in 1810. After leaving Brazil he was sent to the Cape of Good Hope, where he arrived in 1817. He enriched the garden with bulbous and succulent plants. He was recalled in 1823 in consequence of the grant for collectors being reduced. He brought back with him many plants of the fine cycad *Encephalartos horridus* (Smith, Records, p. 133).

The new succulents which he introduced were described by Haworth.

In the Orange River State he discovered the beautiful Amaryllidaceous plant which was received at Kew in 1823, and having flowered was figured by Sir William (then Dr.) Hooker in the Botanical Magazine as *Imantophyllum Aitoni*. "At the same time a plant which had been surreptitiously obtained from Kew flowered in the Duke of Northumberland's garden at Syon House, and was figured and described in the Botanical Register by Dr. Lindley under the name of *Clivia nobilis*." (Gard. Chron., October 29, 1831, p. 568.)

Early in 1817 Cunningham joined Oxley's Australian expedition for exploring the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers. Subsequently he was attached to Captain King's expedition for surveying the coast of Australia, and visited various parts of the east and west coast and Tasmania. He also visited New Zealand and Norfolk Island, and in all places made large collections. Banks wrote to him April 14, 1820, not long before his death (Biographical Sketch, p. 36):—

"I have received safe and in good condition the numerous things you have sent me, and the Royal Gardens have materially benefited by what we had from you. . . . I write you a short letter because I am not well. I know of nothing more to say to you than that I entirely approve of the whole of your conduct, as does also our worthy friend, Aiton, at Kew."

Cunningham says of this letter (B. S., p. 36) :—

“This I shall guard as I would the essential points of the religion in which I have been educated: it is the word of a dying nobleman, whose liberality had fallen alike on the just and unjust, whose kindnesses none of us can any more experience; and if, from a sight of it, I can from time to time call up the courteous spirit of its illustrious writer to regulate my own frame of mind in the ‘jostlings of the world,’ literally, I shall be a happy man.”

Allan Cunningham introduced a profusion of new plants. Amongst them was *Araucaria Cunninghamii*, which is now a conspicuous feature in the Temperate House, and *Laportea Gigas*, an arborescent stinging nettle (1826). Smith says rather drily (Records, p. 68) :—“Its powerful stinging properties, however, led it to meet with general ill-will from the men, and as it died suddenly it is supposed to have been wilfully killed. It has not since been introduced.” The fine *Archontophoenix Cunninghamii* (*Seaforthia elegans*) in the Palm House was introduced by him in 1826. He found the anomalous cycad, *Bowenia spectabilis* in Queensland, though its real affinity was not ascertained till many years after.

Allan Cunningham returned to England in 1831. But he again left in 1836 to fill the post of Superintendent of the Sydney Botanic Garden, vacant through the death of his brother Richard, who was killed by natives while on Major Mitchell’s expedition to discover the source of the Darling river in 1835. Allan Cunningham himself only lived to 1839. He was a remarkable and an industrious man. His numerous manuscripts, as well as his private herbarium, are preserved at Kew.

#### PRINCE REGENT.

The King’s malady had become permanent in 1810. From this time for the next 30 years Kew, undoubtedly, though with some spasmodic efforts at recovery, went steadily down hill. To quote Scheer (pp. 22, 23) :—

“During the non-intercourse with the Continent the arts of peace were in a somewhat dormant state in England; save that a new science (chemistry) sprung rapidly into notice, and became, in the hands of a master-mind, pre-eminently popular and fashionable; so much so that it cast botany for a while in the shade. But when the crowned heads visited England in 1815, the attention of George IV., then Prince Regent, was drawn to the abode of his earlier days, and to the pursuits which had so much interested his Royal parents and family. The Imperial and Royal guests put in many applications for specimens of this then unique collection of plants, and the Prince delighted in gratifying their wishes; and an active intercourse with the managers of foreign gardens, and with scientific men, was for a while resumed.”

To this revival the part taken by Kew in the ill-fated expedition to the Congo may perhaps be attributed.

#### DAVID LOCKHART.

Lockhart was a native of Cumberland, and a gardener at Kew. He sailed in February 1816 as assistant to Christian Smith, the botanist, in Captain Tuckey’s expedition. He was the sole survivor of the scientific staff, and “went farther than any of the expedition.” He sent to Kew a number of plants, such as *Gardenia longiflora* and others.

The narrative of the expedition was published in 1818. Christian Smith was a Dane. He had visited Madeira with Von Buch whom he had met at the house of Sir Joseph Banks. He was offered by the latter



the post of botanist to the expedition. "Never were the results of an expedition more melancholy and disastrous." Out of the 54 persons which it comprised no less than 21 died, including Captain Tuckey and Professor Smith.

The following are extracts from the instructions to Professor Smith given him by the Admiralty :—

"In order to enable him to execute his laborious duties, a gardener from His Majesty's Botanical Garden at Kew has been assigned to assist the Professor in drying and preserving as well as in collecting specimens . . . . ."

"He is also directed to collect the seeds of all new plants which may offer themselves for the use of the Royal Garden at Kew; and the supply of these has been limited to two packages of each kind, sewed up, with a view to keep the stock entire, without breaking into it on any consideration; so that the whole collection may be delivered, so sewed up, to the Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, as soon as possible after the return of the expedition to England (p. xxxviii)."

Mr. Brown worked up Christian Smith's collections. He says (p. 420) :—

"The Herbarium . . . . was on its arrival in England, placed at the disposal of Sir Joseph Banks."

In conclusion Mr. Brown says (p. 485) :—

"It remains only that I should notice the exemplary diligence of the Botanic Gardener, Mr. David Lockhart, the only survivor, I believe, of the party by whom the river above the falls was examined, in that disastrous journey which proved fatal to the expedition."

In 1818 Lockhart was appointed Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, Trinidad.

Smith (Records, pp. 229, 230), says :—

"Between the years 1823 and 1825, a considerable number of species [of orchids] were received from Trinidad, forwarded by Mr. Daniel Lockhart, the Superintendent of the Garden, amongst which were the first plants of *Stanhopea insignis*, *Oncidium Papilio*, *Lockhartea elegans*, *Catasetum tridentatum*, *Ionopsis pallidiflora*, and others, all of which were epiphytal, and many of them being sent growing on portions of branches as cut from the trees, which, being accompanied by instructions from Mr. Lockhart as to how they should be treated, led to the successful cultivation of epiphytal orchids."

The interesting aquatic *Pontederia crassipes* was introduced to Kew by Lockhart from Trinidad.

He died in Trinidad, 1845.

#### Kew, 1817-20.

Patrick Neill, author of a "Journal of Horticultural Tour," gives (p. 507) a brief notice of the state of Kew in 1817 :—

"We then looked into the Botanic Garden, where I found Mr. Begbie, the foreman, an old acquaintance. The hothouses are not placed in any regular form, but scattered over the garden. In one of them Mr. Begbie drew our attention to a plant of the *Cactus cochinillifer*, which had been brought to Britain with the cochineal-insect feeding upon it. There was still a considerable number of the insect upon the plant. In another of the houses he showed us a new species of passiflora, having eatable fruit (*Passiflora edulis*). The plant had fruit upon it at this time: it is of an oval shape, purple-coloured, about the size of a small hen egg. It has sometimes been served up with the dessert at the Royal table."

Sir Richard Phillips (Morning Walk from London to Kew, p. 379), describes in 1817 a curious sight which existed at the time :—

"As I quitted the lane I beheld, on my left, the long boundary wall of Kew Gardens, on which a disabled sailor has drawn in chalk the effigies of the whole British navy, and over each representation appears the name of the vessel, and the number of her guns. He has in this way depicted about 800 vessels, each five or six feet long, and extending with intervening distances about a mile and a half. As

the labour of one man the whole is an extraordinary performance, and I was told the decrepid draughtsman derives a competency from passing travellers."

In 1825 Evans (p. 32) says they were "nearly obliterated."

#### HIMALAYAN RHODODENDRONS.

The first Himalayan Rhododendron was introduced in 1818. Smith (Records, p. 298) says :—

"In 1818 Dr. Wallich forwarded to this country seeds of *Rhododendron arboreum*, native of Nepal, which were reared in the Botanic Gardens, Kew and Edinburgh. The seeds came up abundantly, but by over-heat the Kew breed was lost, and on my leaving Edinburgh in 1820 Mr. McNab sent two plants by me to Kew. They were then about 3 inches high; they were grown in the greenhouse; in 1863 they were taken to the Temperate House, and the largest is now (1889) a bushy tree 23 feet high."

In 1820 George III. died. During the time he was on the throne the botanical exploration and horticultural activity, of which Kew was the centre, was not merely unparalleled, but from the nature of things never can be paralleled again. Evans (pp. 123, 124) in 1824 sums it up numerically, though he does not say on what authority :—

"The present royal family being greatly attached to the study of botany, his late Majesty bestowed much attention on the Garden at Kew, and had the satisfaction of seeing the example which he set followed with such ardour by his subjects, that not less than six thousand seven hundred and forty-six rare exotic plants were introduced into these Kingdoms during his reign, and exotic beauties are now seen blended with our verdure in every corner of the island."

#### KEW PALACE (OLD).

After the reign of George III. Kew ceased, practically, to be a royal residence. The so-called palace, a mere gentleman's mansion of the 17th century, remains, though uninhabited. Its history is not free from obscurity. But the following account embodies what appears to be most trustworthy.

The following is on the authority of Simpson (p. 15). A mansion called Suffolk House, by some Suffolk Place,

"is mentioned in a court roll of the sixth year (1566) of the reign of Queen Elizabeth; but at that time it had been pulled down and destroyed. This, in all probability, was the place of residence of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. This nobleman's third wife was the Princess Mary, who was sister to Henry VIII., and had been previously married to Louis XII. of France, whose widow she was up to the time of her marriage with the Duke of Suffolk . . . . Leland says . . . . that the house was erected in the time of Henry VII., but many years before he wrote, and 'according to report, by a steward of the household.'"

Gosse ("Wandering through the Conservatories at Kew," p. 4), says :—

"It would seem that several manors of great extent and some magnificence existed near the present entrance to the Royal Gardens. One called Suffolk Place, was occupied by a Sir John Puckering, who held the office of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal."

Simpson says (p. 16) that Sir John Puckering entertained Queen Elizabeth in his house at Kew in 1594. He could not therefore have inhabited Suffolk Place if that was pulled down in 1566.

The ancient Kew must have consisted of a number of substantial houses, of which the Old Palace is the last survivor, which were clustered about the Horse Ferry. Two roads met here, both of which were ultimately suppressed in the gradual development of the Gardens. One, the bridle road called Love Lane, which ran south to Richmond Green and Palace. Kew was thus in easy communication with the court, and would be a convenient place of residence for important persons attendant on it. The other road ran in front of the present Palace through Kew Green to Mortlake.



The present building has beneath it a Gothic crypt with a vaulted roof. In one of the rooms architectural fragments, Tudor in style, have been worked in. It seems exceedingly probable that these were fragments of Suffolk Place, upon the site of which it was erected.

Simpson (p. 30) gives the following history of the present Palace:—

“The House now called Kew Palace (but originally the Dutch House), is an old structure of red brick, which is stated by Brayley and others to have been erected about the time of James I., by Sir Hugh Portman, the Dutch merchant who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, and who has already been noticed as the owner of the ‘Dairie House.’ His descendant, Sir John Portman, sold it (in the year 1636) to Samuel Fortrey, Esq., by whose representative, William Fortrey, Esq., it was alienated in 1697 to Sir Richard Levett. Queen Caroline, in the reign of George II., when making her improvements, took a long lease of this House, which had not expired in 1781, in which year the freehold was purchased of the descendants of Levett in trust for her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, by whom it had previously been occupied as a nursery for the Royal offspring.”

In Burrell’s plan of the manor (1771), some land at the back of the Palace is marked with the name of Levett, so that it is probably correct that it passed into Royal possession from the family of that name. But the idea that it was ever leased by Queen Caroline seems possibly to have arisen from a confusion with the neighbouring house on the other side of Love Lane, which is known to have belonged to her.

The Palace, though called the “Dutch House,” has nothing Dutch about it. It is an interesting specimen of Jacobean architecture. The removal of an unsightly wooden porch a few years ago revealed the date over the door, 1631, with the initials F.S.C. This date is, possibly, subsequent to that of its erection. According to Scheer (p. 17), Dutch merchant was simply equivalent to sugar refiner.

Simpson (p. 14) says the Dairie House belonged, in the reign of Edward VI., to Sir Henry Gate. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it became the property of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. It afterwards passed in to the hands of Sir Hugh Portman. Nothing more is known about it, though it is possible that it and not Suffolk Place supplied the more ancient foundation of the present building.

In Rocque’s plan (1734) the Palace is called the Princess Royal’s House; by Chamberlain (1769), the Princess Amelia’s. George IV. (born 1762) was educated here “under the superintendence of Mr. Markham, afterwards Archbishop of York.” (Scheer, p. 17.)

In 1803 Kew House was pulled down except the stables and kitchen offices, which still remain. From this date till the King’s death in 1820 the Royal family resided in the present Palace when at Kew. During this time a public road leading from Kew Green to Brentford ferry passed in front of the Palace and between it and the kitchen offices.

Walford (p. 396) says that the marriages of the Duke of Clarence and of the Duke of Kent to the Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg were celebrated here by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London on Saturday, July 11, 1818, “when a temporary altar was “fitted up in the Queen’s drawing room, which looks into Kew Gardens, “on the first floor.”

On November 17 of the same year Queen Charlotte died here. According to Simpson (p. 31) she was taken ill at Buckingham House. “By the advice of her physicians the Queen was to have been removed “to Windsor, but not being sufficiently recovered she stopped at Kew “Palace.” Walford (p. 395) says the room was at the top of the staircase on the second floor.

## HERBARIUM AND LIBRARY.

One of Sir Joseph Banks's schemes was to found a herbarium and library at Kew. Scheer (p. 50), speaking of Bauer, says :—

"To some of his performances we have had occasion incidentally to allude ; those which he accomplished during the life-time of Sir Joseph Banks were, by the will of the latter, deposited in the British Museum ; and since the plan of Sir Joseph, though once eagerly entered into by George IV., for establishing a Botanical Museum at Kew, has been abandoned, but for which originally the house now in the possession of the King of Hanover was purchased ; we trust that whatever now remains in Kew of Mr. Bauer's drawings will be in due time carefully added to the treasure already laid up in that National Storehouse of Arts and Sciences."

According to Scheer (p. 11),—

"Sir Peter Lely purchased a house at Kew, to which, during the latter part of his life, he frequently retired ; it stood somewhat upon the ground now belonging to the mansion of His Majesty the King of Hanover."

Q. C. (p. 3) says the latter was built on the site of Sir Peter Lely's house. But this is improbable.

This is now the Herbarium and Library of the Royal Gardens. The latter occupies the original house, the former an addition to the north.

Sir Peter Lely's house probably stood to the west and no trace of it remains. The herbarium house was originally known as Hunter House, having been the property of Robert Hunter (Smith, Records, vii), who is traditionally reported to have been a friend of the elder Aiton's, and having succeeded in business, to have settled at Kew. It was built anterior to 1771, as it appears in a copy of Burrell's plan of that date lent by Her Majesty the Queen to the Kew Museum. It is believed to have been purchased for the King in 1818 at the instigation of Sir Joseph Banks for the purpose to which it is now dedicated. A room on the ground floor was fitted (1820) with bookshelves [Kew Report, 1875, p. 2], which remained till 1877, but were apparently not used at the time. Banks and the King both died in 1820, and the library and herbarium of the former were bequeathed to the British Museum, of the Botanical Department of which they became the foundation. Banks appears to have been allowed to retain the botanical specimens brought home by the Kew collectors. The bulk of that part of their labours is therefore to be found in the British Museum.

In 1823 George IV. sold Hunter House to the nation. About 1830 William IV., notwithstanding, granted its use to the Duchess of Cumberland for her life. On the Duke's accession to the throne of Hanover it became generally known as the "King of Hanover's house." The King of Hanover resided in it occasionally, but after his death in 1851 it was unoccupied. In 1852 its use for Herbarium purposes commenced.

## GEORGE IV.

George IV. took at first much interest in Kew, and adopted the plan of adapting Hunter House to its present purpose. In 1823 he acquired by Act of Parliament the west end of the green and erected a tall iron railing, which brought Hunter House within the garden area.

The effect was to close and throw into the garden the old road from Kew Green to Brentford Ferry. "The preamble recites that."

"Parte of the Waste of the said Manor [Kew Green], divides a Messuage and Grounds belonging to His Majesty on the North side thereof [Hunter House], from



other Grounds [Kew Gardens] belonging to His Majesty on the South and West sides thereof : And . . . . . the Inclosure and Addition of so much of the said Waste as divides the said Grounds, and of the Road from the said Common to the Ferry called Brentford Ferry, would be a great Improvement to the said Property of His Majesty."

Across the end of the Green so enclosed, the King erected a tall iron railing from the corner of the official residences on the north side of the Green (of which the most eastern had formerly been occupied by Meyer the miniature painter) to the corner of the present official residence of the Director.

Evans (pp. 130, 131) in 1824, describes the Gates erected by George IV.

"In the centre of Kew Green, his present Majesty has just erected large handsome iron gates, crowned with the lion and unicorn couchant, not altogether dissimilar to the grand entrance at Hampton Court. Iron pallisades also extend on both sides, thus separating the royal domains from the intrusion of vulgar curiosity ! The whole has an imposing effect, and may be pronounced a distinguished improvement."

The so-called Bird-cage Walk, with its dwarf iron railings, was apparently outside George IV.'s new fence. The lime trees were planted by John Smith about 1820.

The Act provided that in compensation to the parish, a new footway from Kew Green to Brentford Ferry, along the river side, as well as roads round Kew Green should be made, and that all the roads in the parish should, in perpetuity, be maintained by the Crown.

The Philosophical Magazine for 1824 contains (vol. vi. pp. 365-6) in a paper "On the cultivation of Botany in England," by Professor Schultes of Landshut, an account of Kew about this time which is far from flattering :—

"Lagasca and I met almost daily, . . . . and made some botanical excursions together : among other places, to the celebrated gardens at Kew. We did not see Mr. Townsend Aiton, as he had been called away to Windsor ; but in this well known garden, whose catalogue has given it so much celebrity, we did not find the pleasure that we had anticipated. We were disappointed particularly in the plants which grow in the open air, which are not so accurately named as those in the Göttingen Botanic Garden, superintended by Schrader : sometimes the same species is marked with two different names. The garden at Kew consists of a fine park, and of a large botanical garden of about twenty acres. What we usually term a park in Germany is like anything rather than what receives the same appellation in England ; and which is neither more nor less than a wood, in which nature and art seem to dispute for the original formation and present possession. As in a wood, one may walk, ride and drive about it, without risk of interruption. English parks are in fact beautiful woods, and nothing more ; and it will ever remain one of the most difficult problems in the delightful science of laying out pleasure grounds, so to plan a charming wood, as he who is in it shall not know whether he be in a grove or a park. We have on the Continent many exquisitely formed gardens, under the name of English ones ; but an English park I have only seen in England. The Botanic Garden at Kew is surrounded by high walls, and intersected with long squares. With regard either to its plan, or its nine or ten stoves, it will not bear a comparison with those of Malmaison, or the Grand Duke of Weimar, of Prince Esterhazy at Eisenstadt, or even with the botanical division of the Imperial Garden at Schönbrunn. A supplement to the *Hortus Kewensis*, under the inspection of Sir Robert Brown, will soon be published : many species which were formerly cultivated here are said to be lost."

About 1823 when Professor Schultes visited Kew the aspect of the small portion of the grounds to the north near Kew Green, which then constituted the whole of the Botanic Garden and Arboretum must have been very singular and totally different from what it is at present. It consisted in fact of a series of inclosures surrounded with brick walls, the greater portion of which have been since removed.

## ARBORETUM.

The Arboretum, which was the most northern portion, was about five acres in extent. John Smith (Records, p. 260) says:—

"Although the area was small, it was a remarkable spot after entering, the scene conveyed the idea of its being the interior of a large forest crowded with underwood; and it was the resort of hundreds of birds."

"It was circumscribed by a 6 ft. gravel walk." (Smith, p. 258.)

In 1823 "the general collection was about fifty or sixty years old; the average size of the trees being 40 to 50 feet high." Many of them, as has already been stated, came from the garden at Whitton of Archibald 3rd Duke of Argyll.

Near the Temple of the Sun, which was about the centre of the whole establishment, grew the first introduced plant of *Aucuba japonica*.

The most tender species were planted against the walls. The fine *Salisburia adiantifolia* was so trained; it is now a tall tree. "When against the wall one of its side branches early produced male flowers." The old existing specimen of *Buxus balearica* was also on a wall.

William IV. in 1830 "removed the west and north boundary walls of the Arboretum. By so doing, the winds had freedom to play their part, and from time to time many fine trees were blown down." (Smith, Records, p. 260.)

The latter wall had been the boundary wall dividing the Royal Gardens from the public road to Brentford Ferry.

## DEODAR.

Smiths says (Records, p. 287):—

"*Cedrus Deodara* is recorded in some books to have been introduced in 1822; as regards seeds such may have been the case, but on account of the long voyages and manner of packing none appear to have vegetated; the first that did so, were brought home by the Hon. Leslie Melville, in the year 1831, who on visiting the Gardens gave me a few seeds which he had loose in his pocket, one of which vegetated, and after several years nursing was planted in the old Arboretum where it now stands. In 1864 it had attained a height of 32 feet, girth 4 feet 5 inches, at 2 feet from the ground, and spread of branches 28 feet."

The tree became unhealthy and was taken down a few years ago. Near its former position is one, now nearly as large raised from seed, ripened in England, by Sir T. D. Acland, Bart.

## HERBACEOUS GROUND.

The Herbaceous ground was south of the Arboretum. In it grew the *Ostrya vulgaris*, *Sophora japonica* and *Araucaria imbricata* which still remain. It was itself bounded to the south by a wall removed by Sir William Hooker in 1847; a small portion still remains at the back of the Hardy Fernery.

Outside the Botanic Garden were the Pleasure Grounds which were therefore much larger in area than they are at present.

"In 1843 about 45 acres of the pleasure ground, contiguous to the Botanic Garden, were added to the latter, separated by a wire fence, the greater part being grass, mowed in summer for hay, the lower part being the filled up lake of George III. (a bog in winter), there being very few trees, except those on the mount, and the weeping willows round a piece of water called the pond, next the Richmond Road, and a row of old elm trees called the seven sisters." (Smith, Records, p. 269).

The Kew Guide says these were "named in allusion to the daughters of George III."

The Pleasure Grounds of Kew Gardens proper extended from the Palace to the Pagoda almost without a break of any sort or description.



Evans (p. 125) describes them (in 1825) as "reaching for a full mile, from the Pagoda down to the Palace at Kew, and strewed with new mown hay of a peculiar luxuriance and fragranc<sup>y</sup>."

#### GEORGE III.'S LAKE.

The present pond is only a fragment of a large piece of water which occupied the site of the Palm House and extended to the west of it. Smith says (p. 172) that this was "the lowest ground in the parish of Kew, consisting originally of lagoons, which George III. converted into a lake. It was filled up in 1814." The lake is shown on Burrell's plan in 1771; it contained an island to which access was obtained by Sir W. Chambers's bridge. There seems reason to think that the "lagoons" spoken of above were part of a chain of ponds which ran through the parish to the N.E., and were themselves the remains of a shallow creek or backwater of the Thames.

During the reign of George IV. no collector seems to have been employed. But Kew gardeners, who obtained employment abroad, were not unmindful of the establishment. A few of these deserve a brief record. The particulars are from brief memoranda left by John Smith, which have also been made use of in giving an account of the regular collectors.

#### ST. HELENA.

Thomas Frazer, a native of Scotland, was at Kew in 1820. He sailed for St. Helena in 1821, having been engaged to cultivate vegetables for the East India Company's ships. He returned in 1825. He brought back a twig of the weeping willow which grew by the tomb of Napoleon. This was grown at Kew (*see* Smith, Records, pp. 261, 262), and was for many years one of the lions of the place. Gosse gives a picture of it (*Wanderings*, p. 292); it was cut down in 1867. Frazer also introduced *Buddleia madagascariensis*, the cabbage tree of St. Helena, &c. He was afterwards foreman in the Royal Garden at Frogmore.

#### SWAN RIVER.

William Morrison, a native of Scotland, was at Kew in 1824. He went to Barbados to superintend a sugar plantation. He visited Trinidad, and returning to England in 1828 brought a large collection of seeds, plants, and dried specimens. He was again employed at Kew, and was sent to France to bring home a large purchase of orange trees for the garden at Windsor.

In 1829 the Swan River Colony was founded, and Captain (afterwards Sir James Stirling) was appointed Governor. He took Morrison with him as gardener: he subsequently became a seed collector, and forwarded collections to this country for sale (Smith, Records, pp. 10, 11). Many of the Swan River *Proteaceæ* were introduced to Kew through Morrison.

#### KEW PALACE (NEW).

Kew House had been taken down by George III. in 1803, and about this time he commenced the erection of a new palace by the river side contiguous to what is now called Queen Elizabeth's lawn.

Wraxall describes (*Memoirs*, vol. v., pp. 378, 379) "the Castle in Kew Gardens" as he calls it.

"Its position opposite to the smoky and dusky town of Brentford, one of the most detestable places in the vicinity of London, only separated by the stream of

the Thames, is very unkingly as well as incommodious. Though still unfinished, unfurnished, and uninhabited, as it will probably ever remain, it presents to the eye an assemblage of towers and turrets, forming a structure such as those in which Ariosto or Spencer depicture captive princesses detained by giants or enchanters."

Sir Richard Phillips describes (1817) the interior (Morning Walk from London to Kew, pp. 380, 381).

"In the western corner [of Kew Green] stood the building called Kew Palace, in which George III. passed many of the early years of his reign, and near which he began a new structure a few years before his confirmed malady, which I call the Bastile Palace, from its resemblance to that building, so obnoxious to freedom and freemen. On a former occasion, I have viewed its interior, and I am at a loss to conceive the motive for preferring an external form, which rendered it impracticable to construct within it more than a series of large closets, boudoirs, and rooms like oratories. . . . The works however have been suspended since the unhappy seclusion of the royal architect; and it is improbable, at least in this generation, that they will be renewed. The foundation is in a bog close to the Thames, and the principal object within its view is the dirty town of Brentford, on the opposite side of the river."

Q. C. (p. 10) describes its destruction.

"The gothic palace which King George III. began at the commencement of the century, was, after standing some years empty, useless, incomplete, decaying, sold by George IV. to a builder for materials. The demolition took place in 1828 or 1829. On Saturday morning, December 8th, some injudicious removal of material was made by the workmen, and one of the eastern towers came crashing to the ground. . . . Eight men were killed. . . . Years after part of a skeleton was found embedded in the earth. . . . The King, having heard of the accident, ordered the rest of the towers to be blown up."

Simpson (pp. 28, 29) seems to imply that the Gothic Palace was commenced earlier than 1803 :—

"Kew House, or the 'Old Palace,' as it was afterwards called, was taken down in 1803, a new Palace in a castellated form having been commenced and partly built by command of the King, on a spot on the banks of the River Thames. Vast sums of money had been expended in the erection of the exterior, which was of compo-work, but the building was never finished internally, nor was it ever inhabited by the King, and after his death it was sold piecemeal by order of George IV., the last of its materials having been removed in 1827. The designs for the buildings were by James Wyatt, the celebrated architect."

Sir W. Hooker, in his Report for 1847, explains how the site was eventually treated :—

"The private grounds of the Palace had been much neglected, especially that portion (about seven acres) on which His Majesty George the 3rd had built the shell of a larger palace. After the demolition of this structure the ground remained untouched, though capable of being made very ornamental; and the boarding had ever since continued, and was the only fence between the said site and the beautiful public walk next the river. The whole of this ground has been cleared, levelled, and laid down as lawn; shrubberies have been planted, the boarding taken away, and a sunk fence or ha-ha, has been made, and a part of the ground given to the public, on which a terrace has been formed, and a gravel walk leading to a new entrance of the Pleasure Grounds. A new gate, from a design of Mr. Burton, plain in style, but well adapted in accordance with the old palace, has been erected at the approach to the palace from the river."

Simpson (pp. 76, 77) describes two remarkable trees which stand near the Palace :—

"Visitors at Kew are always anxious to see two venerable trees near the Ferry, on the banks of the river, I mean the Elm and the Linden. The former is, or rather was, a most beautiful specimen of luxuriant vegetation; it was planted by Queen Mary I. [on the Ordnance Map it is called Elizabeth's Elm], and was blown down in 1844, the top having since been made into a kitchen table for Osborne House; the trunk is still carefully preserved by being railed in, and measures 29 feet in circumference. The Linden tree is of singular beauty, and is of great height. Under this tree, it is said, most of the family of George III. used to sit and pursue their youthful studies."

Only a fragment of the trunk of the Elm remains, but the original dimensions are still preserved by the young stems which have sprung up from the circumference. Its longest diameter (1893) is 10 feet.

In the early part of his reign George IV. abandoned Kew for Windsor, and its scientific interests were neglected. He seems still to have retained some affection for Kew. Croker writes to Lord Hertford Jan. 19, 1831 :—"I am told His Majesty has lately expressed some regret that he is too old to begin building at Kew, which is what he would most like." (Croker Papers, ii. p. 101.) The King died in the following year.

#### SIR EVERARD HOME.

In the same year Sir Everard Home also died. He seems after the death of Banks to have in some measure assumed the task successfully performed by Lord Bute and the former of affording external scientific encouragement to Kew. Scheer says (p. 36) that Sir Everard Home "for some length of time used to meet here, almost every Saturday, at Mr. Bauer's, many of the eminent men of the day, for purposes connected with botany and other branches of Natural Philosophy, and a friendly social intercourse." And (p. 23) he mentions the death of Sir Everard Home as one of the circumstances which "appear to have begot an indifference about these gardens, which it is difficult to account for on any reasonable grounds." In 1820 Sir Everard Home published in the Philosophical Transactions some anatomical observations as they "appeared in the microscope of F. Bauer, Esq."

#### WILLIAM IV.

William IV. seems to have taken a warm interest in Kew and effected several improvements. But the elder Aiton had become Director-General of the Royal Gardens at Kew and elsewhere, and among the duties of so onerous a post the care of Kew must have taken a somewhat subsidiary place. Kew certainly did not gain ground in scientific importance during the King's reign, and it got almost wholly out of touch with the scientific botanists of the day.

The King built in the Pleasure Grounds the small temple which bears his name, but seems at the time to have had the grandiloquent title of "The Pantheon," a "Temple of Military Fame." It was erected by Sir Jeffery Wyatville to commemorate "the battles fought by British soldiers from 1760 to 1815." A local tradition is that as the workman was cutting the King's initials on the pediment the great bell of St. Paul's began to toll to announce the King's death.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATORY.

Smith (Records, p. 96) says :—

"During the latter years of the reign of George III. and George IV., a new Palm House was contemplated, and a plot of ground set apart for its erection; but nothing was done until the accession of William IV., who took much interest in improving the Gardens, and in 1834, a plan for a spacious Palm House was prepared by the celebrated architect, Sir Jeffery Wyatville, and in October 1834, a spot was selected and the length of the house marked out in the presence of the King."

The plan was, however, abandoned on William IV. removing to Kew (in 1836) from Buckingham Palace (where it was replaced by a chapel), the great architectural conservatory which stands near the



Main gate. This was erected on the ground which had been taken from Kew Green. Up to 1848 it was used as a Palm-house. In that year—

“Its contents consisting of Palms and other tropical plants, were removed to the [new] Palm-house, and it was immediately occupied by the larger growing kinds of Australian plants, such as *Myrtaceæ*, *Leguminosæ*, and *Proteaceæ* . . . some of the *Banksias* becoming large bushes and flowering profusely.” [Smith, Records, p. 64.]

These in turn were removed in 1863 to the Temperate House. It is now used for *Aroidæ* and other plants requiring an extreme tropical treatment.

William IV., as already stated, removed the wall of the old Arboretum to the west and north, which ran from the “Ice House” to the east end of the Orangery. This was the first step in the policy of opening up the grounds, which has been pursued ever since.

According to a memorandum of a conversation with John Smith, William IV. in 1830 removed the high railing erected by George IV. across the west end of the Green, and the gates and lodges at either end of it. He used the gates and part of the railing to inclose the front of Hunter House. (This inclosure was set back in 1880.) The other part was erected across the space between the present house of the Keeper of the Herbarium and the wall of Hunter House grounds. It was bent into the present sweep when the Main gate was erected in 1845.

#### OLD ENTRANCE.

At this time there does not appear to have been any entrance where the Main gate now stands. Evans says (p. 122) in 1824:—“The entrance is on the upper side of Kew Green, whilst another is in “Richmond Road.” The former was on the south side of the Green, where the engine-house now stands. It was narrow and inconspicuous; but it was not superseded till 1845, when the Main gate was erected by Decimus Burton.

The “Lion and Unicorn Couchant,” which Evans describes as adorning George IV.’s gates, now perform the same function on two gates in the Richmond Road. The lion was at first on the present Unicorn Gate. The present Lion Gate was called the Pagoda Gate. On “Sept. 9, 1849, Mr. Jesse proposed to purchase for 7*l.* the unicorn “sold at sale of Kew effects, and place it on the top of entrance at “Pagoda.” This was done, but the position of the two figures was interchanged.

#### ORCHIDS.

In 1833 George Aldridge brought a collection of living orchids from Trinidad. He was son of John Aldridge, many years foreman of the Royal Kitchen Garden at Kensington, afterwards Superintendent of the Royal Kitchen and Forcing Garden at Kew. George Aldridge went to Trinidad in 1831, and returned on account of bad health.

Smith says (Records, p. 235) that in 1826 about 60 species of orchids were cultivated at Kew. “New ones were, however, successively “added, and in 1836 a small house was erected, and appropriated to “the cultivation of tropical species.”

## VOYAGE OF THE "SULPHUR."

In 1835, George Barclay, a gardener, who entered Kew in 1833, was appointed botanical collector to H.M.S. "Sulphur" (Captain Belcher), which was about to proceed to western S. America for surveying purposes. Various parts of the American coast were visited northward to Sitka. The Sandwich, Fiji, and other islands of the Pacific were also visited, and Barclay reached England with his collections in 1841. The botany of the voyage was worked out by Mr. Bentham.

## NATHANIEL WILSON.

Nathaniel Wilson, a native of Scotland, was at Kew in 1834 and 1838. He went to Jamaica to cultivate coffee in 1847. He was appointed Curator of the Botanic Gardens at Bath. He sent many plants to Kew such as tree and other ferns, the Lace Bark Tree, &c. He cultivated the first specimens of *Cinchona*, raised in Jamaica from seed sent from Kew by Sir William Hooker. He paid much attention to fibre plants, and his collections formed one of the first contributions to the Economic Museums at Kew. He retired in 1867, and died about 1873.

## ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC.

Although till after the death of William IV. Kew was essentially a private establishment, it was by no means inaccessible to the public. In 1819 Rees's *Cyclopædia* says: "The Gardens at Kew are opened every Monday during the Summer." In 1825 Evans (Richmond and its Vicinity, p. 122) says: "The Gardens are open to the public on Sunday from Midsummer till Michaelmas." In 1838 Dr. Lindley reported to the Treasury:—

"Visitors are unreservedly admitted to the Garden daily, except on Sundays, and Mr. Aiton deserves credit for having exercised his power as Director-General, in order to secure this privilege to the public. It is, however, not easy to discover what advantage, except that of a pleasant walk, has been derived from the privilege in the past state of the Garden."

Scheer (p. 47) in 1840, says:—

"The Pleasure Grounds, which are quite distinct from the Botanic Gardens, are open to the Public on Thursdays and Sundays from Midsummer till Michaelmas."

Kew had gradually in proportion as the direct interest of royalty in its maintenance diminished, assumed a quasi-public character. Its management became the subject of criticism which certainly did not err on the side of being out-spoken.

## DEAN HERBERT.

The Hon. and Reverend William Herbert (afterwards Dean of Manchester), a well-known and creditable writer on bulbous plants, delivers himself of the following bitter complaint in his *Amaryllidaceæ* (1837, pp. 247-8):—

"The illiberal system established at Kew Gardens by Sir Joseph Banks, whereby the rare plants collected there were hoarded with the most niggard jealousy, and kept as much as possible out of the sight of any inquirer, led in the first instance to a feeling of satisfaction, whenever it was known that the garden had been plundered and some of its hidden treasures brought into circulation; and the indifference with which such thefts were regarded, if they were not actually winked at, by cultivators, led to such great laxity of conduct, that, until the practice was stopped by a prosecution, every private collection became exposed to like depredations; and the

falsehoods that were told to cover the theft occasioned a great deal of confusion concerning the native habitation of plants introduced at that period. It was the narrow-minded doctrine of Sir J. Banks that he could only render the King's collection superior to others by monopolizing its contents; and by doing so he rendered it hateful and contemptible: whereas if he had freely given and freely received, and made its contents easily accessible to those who were interested in them, it would have been a pleasure and a pride to the nation. It is now near 20 years since I have visited that odious and useless establishment. Formerly I went there often, but always in vain, for if I inquired for any rare plants, which I had reason to believe were in the collection, excepting those which, from their size, could not be concealed, my conductor always denied any knowledge of them; and if I asked whether I could speak to a person better acquainted with the plants, I was told that I could obtain no further information. The multitude of rare plants that have flourished and perished there unobserved I believe to be very great. I owe no thanks to that establishment, but for the mere permission to walk straightforward through the houses. I must do Mr. Salisbury the justice to say that he repeatedly remonstrated with Sir Joseph Banks in vain on the subject."

The ethical standpoint which animates this pronouncement is somewhat odd for a Dean. And the strictures themselves are not on a much higher level. In the first place Kew was a private establishment, of the Sovereign it is true, but over which it is not obvious that the public generally had any definite rights. The attack on Sir Joseph Banks is probably not really grounded on facts, and, even if it were, it must be remembered that the scientific esteem which Kew acquired was entirely due to Banks who, without any official position, and simply as a personal friend of the King's, spent a scarcely calculable amount of time, pains, and money in making the Kew Botanical collections the first in the world at the time. Royal interest can, no doubt, effect a good deal, but it cannot be doubted that, without the scientific advice and encouragement which Banks rendered to the King, it would have been impossible for Kew to have attained the scientific eminence which it reached under the two Aiton's.

The anonymous writer (1838), probably Lindley, in the article "Garden" in the *Penny Cyclopædia* (vol. xi., p. 74), is scarcely less severe.

"The chief English garden, containing a large collection of plants, is that of Kew, which is certainly the richest in the world in New Holland Plants, and which was during the late war, almost the only place in Europe to which exotic plants were introduced in considerable quantity. It contains a bad and ill-named or rather unnamed collection of hardy plants, and a good many small hot-houses and green-houses filled with rare plants; there is, moreover, an excellent kitchen-garden and forcing department. In consequence of this establishment having had a monopoly of government support for above 30 years, it has been the channel through which an enormous quantity of new plants have been introduced to Europe from all parts of the world. For many years however it was unworthy of the nation, from the illiberal manner in which it was conducted, a system of exclusive possession having been observed in it, which was most disgraceful to those by whose authority it was maintained, and who acted as if such gardens were supplied by the public purse for the private gratification of a few selfish courtiers, and not for either the crown or the country. Of late years, however, this system has been abandoned, a liberal management has been introduced, and the collection is as accessible as that of other nations."

There can be no doubt, however, that these complaints and criticisms, whether justified by the circumstances of the time or not, had a powerful effect on the future fortunes of Kew. They stimulated an amount of interest in its maintenance as a scientific institution which ultimately brought about its development upon its present scale.

#### DR. LINDLEY'S REPORT.

William IV. died in 1837, and in January 1838 the Treasury appointed a committee "to inquire into the management, &c. of the Royal Gardens." It consisted of Dr. Lindley, in conjunction with two prac-



tical gardeners, one of whom was the future Sir Joseph Paxton. The committee reported in February following.

The report is too long to quote. But a few paragraphs are useful as giving an idea of the state of the establishment at the time :—

“ This garden is situated on the south side of Kew Green, bounded partly by the walls of the Royal Forcing and Kitchen Gardens and partly by what is called the Pleasure Ground of Kew Palace. It is reported in the official returns to occupy 15 acres, of which part is Arboretum, and the remainder filled by stoves and greenhouses, borders of Herbaceous Plants, spaces left for the arrangement of greenhouse plants in the open air in summer, offices, yards, &c.”

“ The Arboretum contains many very fine specimens of hardy Exotic trees and shrubs, but the collection is not very extensive, and the plants are too much crowded.”

“ The collection of Herbaceous Plants appeared to be inconsiderable. A certain number were marked with their names written on painted sticks, others were unnamed; no systematical arrangement was observable with the exception of Grasses, of which there is an extensive collection named.”

Scheer (p. 41) speaks of this collection (1840) :—

“ Which we believe is as complete as possible, and which was dear to George III., because of his patriotic fondness for agriculture.”

The report continues :—

“ The stoves and greenhouses have been built, with two exceptions, in the neighbourhood of each other in an irregular manner, and apparently, from time to time, as occasion arose for successive additions. Some of them are old, but in general they are in pretty good repair. They may be described as follows :—

“ 1. A palm stove, 60 feet long, containing, among other things, some fine old palm trees planted in the ground. [One of these was the large *Sabal blackburniana*, which is so striking an object in the present Palm House. John Smith (p. 122) found it at Kew in the spring of 1820. But there was no record of its introduction. He supposes it to have been brought by Admiral Bligh from the West Indies in 1793.]

“ 2. A stove, 50 feet long, filled with a miscellaneous collection of stove plants.

“ 3. A stove, 60 feet long, with two small tanks for water plants, occupied by a miscellaneous assemblage of stove plants.

“ 4. A small span greenhouse, 40 feet long, with a miscellaneous collection of small New Holland and Cape plants. [Built 1803.]

“ 5. A dry stove, 40 feet long, in two compartments, filled with succulent plants.

“ 6. A greenhouse, 60 feet long, chiefly filled with fine specimens of Cape of Good Hope and New Holland plants, among which are some noble *Banksias*. [Built 1792.]

“ 7. A double propagating pit.

“ 8. A greenhouse, 30 feet long, containing small Cape of Good Hope and New Holland plants.

“ 9. A ‘ Botany Bay ’ house, 110 feet long, crowded with magnificent specimens of New Holland and other plants, especially the former. [Built 1788.]

“ 10. An old stove, reported to be the first house erected in the Gardens, 110 feet long, in three divisions, one containing noble specimens of succulent and other plants; the second, a stately *Zamia pungens* [no doubt, Masson’s *Encephalartos*], palms, &c.; and the third, a miscellaneous set of greenhouse plants, together with a few forced flowers for nosegays.” [Built 1761.]

Of these, 2 and 3, have been united to form the present No. 2 (Tropical Ferns); 4 and 5 have been united to form the present No. 3 (Temperate Ferns); 6 with additions by Decimus Burton is the present No. 4 (Greenhouse). The propagating pits have been reconstructed for orchid cultivation. All the other houses have given place to larger, more convenient, and more modern buildings.

Nos. 4, 6, and 9 were built on ground purchased by George III. from the Rev. W. Methold (to whom the Director’s official residence formerly belonged), and added to the Botanic Garden.

To return to the report :—

“ The first thing to remark upon the specimens in the houses just described is, that they are excessively crowded, and some of them are out of condition from this

circumstance. In general, however, the plants, especially those from New Holland, are in excellent health, clean and well attended to; the general appearance of the collections was, moreover, very creditable."

John Smith, who was foreman at the time, and who was subsequently the first Curator of Kew, as a public establishment, seems to have felt, and it must be admitted with some reason, that the report of the Treasury Committee scarcely did justice to the state of the Gardens. There can be no doubt, from independent tradition, that the collections of Cape and New Holland plants must have been incomparable, and such as have never been surpassed since.

He says (Records, p. x.) :—

"It will be seen by the date of the above Report that the examination of the Garden took place in the month of February 1838, just after one of the severest winters on record, and heaps of melting snow still lying on the ground, and all ever-green shrubs presenting a sorrowful aspect. \* \* The herbaceous collection, if it had been examined in summer, and time taken, it would have been found to contain about 2,500 species of perennial plants, arranged according to the Linnæan system."

#### COLONIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

An important paragraph in the Report relates to the interchange of plants with other gardens, and he (Dr. Lindley) says "that no communication with Colonial gardens is apparent from the Garden Book of "Delivery." Smith shows that this statement was based on a misapprehension. He proceeds :

"With regard to Colonial gardens in the east, Mauritius for instance, had received all the useful fruits and vegetables from the French West Indies and other countries before it became a British Colony; in 1818 a selection of useful plants was sent, and after that collections of the finest kinds of European fruits were sent from Kew. New South Wales was also early supplied with useful fruits suitable to its temperate climate, and there was a considerable intercourse with India and China through the East India Company's ships, in some cases on an extensive scale, as for instance in the spring of 1806, fourteen boxes of plants were sent by the ship *Thames* to India. \* \* \* In the same year a large collection of succulents was also sent to Calcutta."

\* \* \*  
 "The above is sufficient to show that Kew has not been backward in supplying the Colonies and Botanic Gardens of Europe with rare plants, and that matters were not so bad as represented by Dr. Lindley in his report."

Dr. Lindley reported in 1838, but his report was not presented to Parliament till May 12, 1840.

Of what took place in the interval Smith gives an account (Records, pp. xii., xiii.) :—

"In the autumn of 1839 the Lord Steward, then Lord Surrey, who in virtue of his office had the whole control and management of the Royal Gardens, paid frequent visits to the Botanic Garden, always accompanied by the Superintendent of the Kitchen Garden, and carefully examined the greenhouses and pits; and it became known that it was his intention to convert them into vineries and pine-stoves, and that the plants had been offered to the Horticultural Society for their garden at Chiswick, and also to the Royal Botanic Society for their garden at Regent's Park; but the offer in both cases was declined. The vinery scheme was, however, intended to be carried out, and on the 18th of February 1840 the kitchen gardener informed me that he had received instructions from Lord Surrey to take possession of the Botany Bay House, and convert it as soon as possible into a vinery, and that the Cape House was to follow, and to enable him to do so he was to destroy the plants. This becoming known to the public led to articles in several public journals condemning the scheme as being a disgrace to the nation. This had the desired effect, and Lord Surrey's scheme was abandoned."

#### FREDERICK SCHEER.

This was the occasion of the publication (1840) of the excellent historical account of Kew published by Frederick Scheer under the



title of "Kew and its Gardens." Scheer was an independent botanist who had particularly devoted himself to the study of *Cactaceæ*. He described the plants of that family collected by Seemann for the "Botany of the Voyage of the Herald," published by that botanist (1852-57). Sir William Hooker (1853) figured *Scheeria mexicana* (Bot. Mag. t. 4743) named by Seemann in his honour.

"To whom our gardens are indebted for the introduction of several other ornamental plants, and to whose successful study of *Cactaceæ* science owes many interesting additions."

Scheer describes himself as a Kewite, by which, no doubt, he intends that he resided at Kew. He certainly knew the affairs at the time and the history of the gardens as well as anyone living on the spot could know them. His pages have been borrowed from freely in this account, and as far as his statements admit of being tested they prove extremely accurate.

In his introduction he says:—

"The botanical world has been lately roused from the even tenor of its way by ominous rumours threatening destruction to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. There is no doubt that intimation had been given to the Horticultural Society, and perhaps to others, of the existence of a desire to dispose of the plants, collected in the course of nearly a century, in these Gardens; and it has been said that the expense annually incurred was too heavy to be borne any longer by the British nation.

"The Council of the Horticultural Society, with a spirit highly favourable to themselves and to science, declined becoming a party to a proceeding so inauspicious to their pursuits, and we trust that no corporate body could be found in the United Kingdom capable of deviating from the dignified course of which these gentlemen have set the example."

#### DISCUSSION IN HOUSE OF LORDS.

A brief discussion which took place in the House of Lords, March 3, 1840, "tranquillized the public mind on the matter."

HOUSE OF LORDS, March 3, 1840.

Kew Botanic Gardens.—The Earl of *Aberdeen* . . . . . alluded to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He had heard many reports with respect to the intention of the Government to abandon and destroy that fine establishment. He should have given little or no credit to those reports, if he had not been informed that an offer had been made to the Horticultural Society of this city to give up to them the plants in the Gardens on certain conditions. That society was very well known to be anxious to forward horticultural pursuits; but they nevertheless declined the offer. They refused to become parties to a transaction which had for its object the destruction of these Gardens. He considered the Botanic Gardens at Kew to constitute a part of the state and dignity of the Crown, which ought by no means to be separated from it. He knew not what expense this establishment might entail on the civil list; but he should be happy to see assistance given by the country, if it were necessary, in support of an object of this description. So far from desiring to destroy this establishment, he should think that Her Majesty could not favour a better object than the protection, encouragement, and cultivation of that delightful science with which those Gardens were connected. He now asked the noble Viscount, who was at the head of the Department of Woods and Forests, whether any such intention as that to which he had alluded at present existed . . . . .

Viscount *Duncannon* said, that the Botanic Gardens of Kew were not under the control of his Department. But he could assure the noble Earl that there was not only not the least intention now to break up these Gardens, but there never had been any such intention. Indeed, it would have been next to impossible; for a great many of the plants could not be removed without ensuring their destruction.

Scheer (p. 56) explains the mode in which the Gardens were maintained.



"All repairs are done by the Woods and Forests. The wages and coal, which amounts to less than a thousand pounds in the year, are disbursed by the Lord Chamberlain, and voted in the annual grants for the Civil list. For collectors and for collecting the Admiralty or the Treasury have supplied the expenses. Thus, three, if not four various departments have contributed, each to an indefinite extent towards this establishment. Sir Joseph Banks in his time, also sacrificed large sums towards the advancement of the Gardens, and besides many private individuals have added considerably to the collection."

A few days after the discussion in the House of Lords the Botanic Garden was transferred to the charge of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests by the following minute:—

"THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS.

"A proposal having been made to the Lord Steward by the Chief Commissioner of Woods and Works to transfer to that department the charge of the Botanical and all other Gardens now under the control of the Board of Green Cloth, at Kew, except the Kitchen Gardens, with the sum of 800*l.* annually toward the expense of maintaining the same, and to increase that sum to 1,000*l.* a year when the retired allowance also to be paid by this department to Mr. Aiton, Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens shall cease, he being entitled to that allowance in full for length of service.

"The Lord Steward by his signature to this paper with the sanction of the First Lord of the Treasury through whom this proposal has been made, and with the concurrence of Her Majesty, to whom it has been submitted, consents to the arrangement, and directs that possession of all the said Gardens except the Kitchen Garden, be given to such Person or Persons as the Chief Commissioners of Woods and Works, may duly authorize in writing to take charge of the same from the 1st day of April next.

(Signed) ERROLL,  
Lord Steward.

Board of Green Cloth,  
St. James's Palace, 11 March 1840."

AYLMER BOURKE LAMBERT.

A. B. Lambert, Esq., of Boyton, Wilts, was a private gentleman of property, who took a keen interest in botany, and was well known in the scientific world. For some years he seemed to have succeeded to the rôle of Sir Joseph Banks, in the affairs of Kew. He came to reside at Kew in the autumn of 1839.

His correspondence is preserved at Kew, and the following extracts are taken from his letters to John Smith:—

Aug. 27, 1836. "I am rejoiced to hear that your new houses go on so rapidly."  
This no doubt refers to the Architectural Conservatory.

April 13, 1837. "I particularly and impressively desired [him] to collect all the seeds and plants for the Royal Gardens, Kew, which he has most faithfully promised to do."

This refers to an "Admiralty Purveyor," who was going to the Bay of Islands.

Feb. 13, 1840. "I have just been with Sir Charles Lemon, and am sorry to say that Kew Gardens are to be broken up, and the plants to be sent to the Horticultural, that is [if] they will accept of them, if not they are to be offered to persons belonging to Regent's Park."

Feb. 20. "I have the pleasure of informing you that all proceedings respecting Kew are put an end to."

Feb. 25. "Mr. Brown was here on Monday for three hours. He was quite outrageous. We must get out collectors, that would be the main point."

Mr. Brown's feeling was no doubt induced by the proposal to break up the collections.

Feb. 28. "I am happy to tell you that Kew is quite safe. It was never meant to be otherways. The offering of them to the Horticultural seems to have been for the want of better information on the subject by the gentleman who made the offer."

March 9. "You will not be a little surprised, and I think not less grateful, when I tell you your letter that you wrote me giving particulars of the origin of Kew Gardens, and the interest taken by the Princess of Saxe Gotha, that said letter went to the throne, and [was] read by Her Majesty and Prince Albert; they were much interested in it. There is no doubt that was the reason Lord Ilchester came to Kew, as he is one of Her Majesty's household."

It seems probable that after all the continued existence of Kew was rather due to the interest of the Sovereign than the influence of popular agitation.

#### SIR WILLIAM HOOKER.

Towards the end of the year, Mr. Aiton intimated his intention of resigning the charge of the Botanic Garden, having been nearly 50 years in the service. He appears not to have resigned the charge of the Pleasure Grounds till (1845) five years later. Sir William Hooker, F.R.S., then Regius Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow, was appointed Director of the Botanic Garden, which then comprised only 15 acres, an insignificant area compared with the present establishment. "His duties commenced on the 1st of April 1841, from which date commenced a new era in the history of the Royal Garden, Kew."

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